SUNDAY
October 9, 2022

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Neither faction can use Shiv Sena name, symbol for now: EC

NEWS » PAGE 9

12 killed, 43 injured after bus hits truck, catches fire in Nashik

NEWS » PAGE 8

Shafali shines with bat and ball as India beats Bangladesh

SPORT » PAGE 16

CLASSIFIEDS » PAGES J4 & 4 | MAGAZINE » 8 PAGES

Arduous trek: A woman from one of J&K's nomadic tribes makes the trip back to the warmer plains of Jammu. NISSAR AHMAD

Technology eases path for the weary

The nomadic communities of J&K have been offered smart cards and free transport to aid their biannual migration

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

For centuries, Jammu and Kashmir's nomadic community, known as Gujjars and Bakerwals, have undertaken arduous journeys on foot as part of their seasonal migration to find better pastures for their livestock. They often lose cattle and, on occasion, family members to accidents and hardships along the way. However, technological solutions and transport services have been offered this year to help them cover long distances in less time and more safely.

J&K's Tribal Affairs Department has surveyed 98,000 such families to map their routes and transit locations. "Technology has been leveraged in various aspects, including the development of smart cards to replace multiple annual (No Objection Certificates) NOCs and permissions for migration. A pilot project covers 10,000 families over the next three months," Dr. Shahid Iqbal Chaudhary, Secretary to the Tribal Affairs Department, told *The Hindu*.

Using remote sensing technology and geographic information system, officials delineated pastures and the grazing land in each district. This step was followed by mapping of routes and the migration pattern to understand when Bakerwals and their livestock use the highways, first in spring when they start from the plains of Jammu and then in autumn when they leave the upper reaches of the Kashmir Valley.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 8

UKRAINE WAR

Blast damages Russia's arterial link to Crimea

It's just 'the beginning', says Ukraine President's adviser, but didn't claim responsibility for the explosion on Kerch rail-road bridge

Reuters
KYIV

A powerful explosion seriously damaged Russia's road-and-rail bridge to Crimea on Saturday, hitting a prestige symbol of Moscow's annexation of the peninsula and the key supply route to Russian forces battling to hold territory captured in southern Ukraine.

The blast on the bridge over the Kerch Strait, for which Russia did not immediately assign blame, prompted gleeful messages from Ukrainian officials but no direct claim of responsibility.

Russian officials said three people had been killed, probably the occupants of a car travelling near a truck that blew up.

Despite the damage, limited road traffic resumed about 10 hours after the blast. Rail traffic is expected to restart later in the day.

Russia seized Crimea from Ukraine in 2014 and the 19-km Crimean Bridge linking it to Russia's transport network was opened with great fanfare by President Vladimir Putin in 2018.

It now represents a major artery for the Russian forces who have taken control of most of southern Ukraine's Kherson region, and for the naval port of Sevastopol.

It was not yet clear if the blast was a deliberate attack, but the damage to such high-profile infrastructure came at a time when Russia has suffered several battlefield defeats.

An adviser to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky posted a message on Twitter saying the incident was just "the beginning" but stopped short of saying Ukrainian forces were responsible for the blast. "Everything illegal must be destroyed, everything that is stolen must be returned to Ukraine, everything occupied by Russia must be expelled," Mykhailo Podolyak wrote.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 8

The burning wagons on the Kerch bridge after the blast on Saturday. AFP

'New Congress president won't be remote-controlled'

Sathish G.T.
TURUVEKERE (TUMAKURU DISTRICT)

Both the candidates in the fray for the post of Congress president – M. Mallikarjun Kharge and Shashi Tharoor – are "persons of stature" and neither of them will be "remote-controlled", said Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, MP, adding that such insinuations are insulting to them.

He was addressing a press conference at Turuvekere in Tumakuru district on the 31st day of Bharat Jodo Yatra, the Congress march which is currently passing through Karnataka.

Rahul Gandhi addressing a press conference at Turuvekere in Tumakuru district on Saturday. PRAKASH HASSAN

Answering a question on the BJP's claim that whoever wins the elections to the post of Congress president would be "remote-controlled" by the Gandhi family, Mr. Gandhi said both the contestants were persons of perspectives and understanding. "Neither of them will be remote-controlled. Frankly, this tone itself is insulting to them," he remarked. The Congress presidential poll will be held on October 17, and results would be announced on October 19.

Asked who would become the next Chief Minister in Karnataka if his party came to power, Mr. Gandhi said it would be decided through a set process. On whether his party would join hands with the JD (S), he said he was sure of the Congress winning the election on its own.

ANOTHER REPORT » PAGE 6

Ola, Uber autos to be seized

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Transport Minister B. Sriramulu on Saturday said that he has ordered the department officials to seize Ola and Uber autos in Bengaluru, where the aggregators are engaged in a regulatory tussle with authorities.

Speaking to reporters, he said notices have been issued to both Ola and Uber for "violations" and that he would decide the next course of action in a day or two. While giving licences, the Transport Department had imposed conditions that should not be violated.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 7

Study to predict fog conditions around KIA achieves up to 69% success rate

Hemanth C.S.
BENGALURU

With winter approaching and fears of disruptions in flight schedules, an ongoing study by the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) to predict fog conditions at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has yielded favourable results.

Prof. K.R. Sreenivas, who is heading the JNCASR team, which is conducting this study on atmospheric conditions in the vicinity of the airport, said, "We have identified certain indicators. As of now we are getting a success rate of around 65% to 69% on predicting if fog would occur or not in the airport's vicinity."

The Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research is conducting the study to help airport and airlines authorities. FILE PHOTO

Higher target

However, the team of scientists is not satisfied with the current success rate. "We hope we will be able to push it to 75% or so," he said.

In 2019, the Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), which operates KIA, had signed an agreement with JNCASR to conduct a four-year study. The aim was to develop a Numerical Simulation Tool that will be capable of predicting the onset of fog over the airport's vicinity. Mr. Sreenivas said the pandemic has delayed the experiments.

"The two main equipment required for the study were imported from Europe and by the time they arrived we had the COVID-19 outbreak. We missed out in the 2020 winter season due to pandemic and flight cancellations. We currently have data for fog season (2021) and need to conduct more experiments in the upcoming winter season," Sreenivas said.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 7

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LIC / P1 / 2022-23 / 13 / Eng

Fight for right: A woman dressed as the goddess in her avatar as Mahisasura Mardhini — destroyer of Mahisasuran.

In the likeness of the divine

At the temple at Kulasekarapattinam near Thoothukudi in Tamil Nadu, devotees dress up as divine beings during Dasara

S.R. Raghunathan
raghunathan.sr@theshindu.co.in

Dasara in Kulasai or Kulasekarapattinam, a small village 15 km from Thoothukudi, is suffused with legend and unique festivities. The Kulasai Mutharamman Temple, believed to be 300 years old, has the idols of Goddess Mutharamman and Swamy Gnanamoorthiswarar installed together.

The devotees undergo a fast and abstinence for 41 days. During the last 10 days, when Dasara is celebrated, they dress up as gods and goddesses. Some assume the guise of Goddess Kali, while some others take on the garb of local gods. They go door to door seeking alms. The money left after their expenses is offered to the temple.

The story goes that the villagers approached the goddess to save them from the cruelty of Mahisasuran, the demon.

The goddess took birth as Lalithambigai and the baby grew into an adult in nine days, now celebrated as Navaratri every year. On the 10th day, she took on Mahisasuran and destroyed him.

At hand: Colourful arms made out of materials such as plaster of Paris, sponge and paper are kept ready for use.

No time to waste: A devotee dressed up as Goddess Kali appears ready for battle.

Companionable silence: A devotee uses his smartphone while Lord Vishnu and his Adiseshan (serpent god) take a break.

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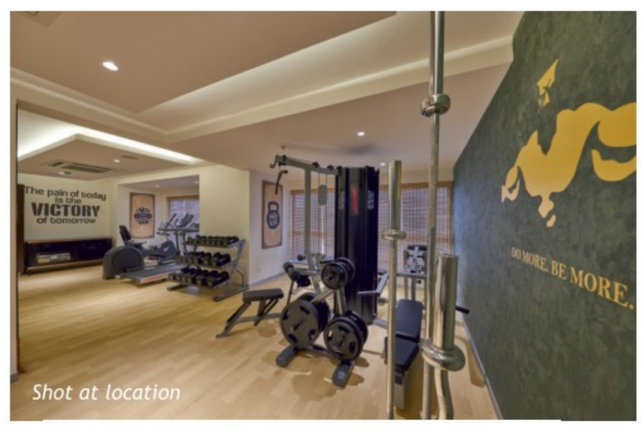

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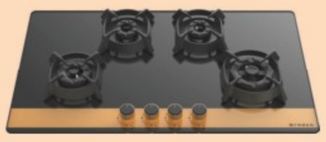

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Sacred touch: A person in the form of God Karuppasami offers blessings.

Crowds gather: Thousands of devotees attend the temple festival during the nine days of celebration.

Fiery fervour: The goddess in all her fury stands before the fire pits near the beach at Kulasi. Devotees walk across the coals barefoot to pay tribute to the goddess.

Dance of anger: Though many devotees wear colourful attire, black is particularly associated with Goddess Kali to represent destruction.

Smouldering devotion: The devout carry fire pots, keeping the flame alive with oil that they bring along during the procession.

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GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Social Welfare Department & Tribal Welfare Department

SHRI BASAVARAJ BOMMAI
Hon'ble Chief Minister

HISTORICAL DECISION BY THE GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

Reservation for Scheduled Castes (SC) has been increased from 15% to 17%.
Reservation for Scheduled Tribes (ST) has been increased from 3% to 7%.

•Implementation of Justice H. N. Nagamohan Das's Committee Report.
•Upholding Social Justice as promised by the Government of Karnataka.

Government of Karnataka working for the development of SC-ST communities

- Rs. 28,234 crore allotted for SCSP/TSP schemes.
- For projects of development corporations under the Social Welfare and Tribal Welfare Department, a grant of Rs. 580.19 crores was sanctioned in the budget. An additional grant of Rs. 410 crores is also sanctioned. The total amount is 990.19 crore.
- 75 units of free electricity for below-poverty-line SC/STs.
- A grant of Rs. 750 crores sanctioned to the Public Works Department, (earmarked under the SCSP/TSP scheme) to be utilized for the construction of 100 Dr B.R. Ambedkar hostels and 10 KREIS (Residential Schools) buildings.
- The unit cost under the land acquisition scheme aimed at providing land to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has been increased to Rs. 20 lakhs.
- The assistance given to Scheduled Castes and Tribes under Self Employment Scheme increased to one lakh rupees. Under this scheme named after Babu Jagjeevanram, a target of assisting 100 people for each assembly constituency has been set.
- The housing subsidy for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes increased to Rs. 2 lakhs.

SHRI B. SRIRAMULU
Minister for Tribal Welfare

SHRI KOTA SRINIVAS POOJARI
Minister for Social Welfare and Backward Classes

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Department of Posts looks to deliver farm produce on the doorsteps of consumers

We have a tie-up with the Mango Board and they will try to establish online booking facilities for other seasonal fruits: Chief Postmaster General

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

India Post is now looking to tie up with agricultural producers to deliver their produce to the doorsteps of consumers. This comes after a pilot project to deliver idli and dosa batter to homes in the city failed to take off in a big way.

"We have the capacity to tie up with agricultural producers and deliver their produce to the doorsteps of the customers," said S. Rajendra Kumar, Chief Postmaster General, Karnataka Circle. "This can include fruits, vegetables and other grains like corn produces. We are trying to locate some agro-producers for this. We already have a tie-up with the Mango Board and they have said that they will also try to establish online booking facilities for other seasonal fruits," he said.

He said as a last-mile connectivity agent, the department will not take any e-commerce orders by itself, but if any of the other service providers came forward, then they are willing to tie up for doorstep deliveries.

Earlier this year in July, the postal department started the doorstep delivery of idli and dosa batter and some other ready to eat food products. A popular restaurant group in the city, Halli Mane had tied up with the department for this project. However, Mr. Rajendra said the project failed to take off on a full scale as the restaurant did not take it up on a larger scale after the pilot project. "We used to get less than ten orders a day," he said.

On October 14, a special 'senior citizen-underprivileged children interaction' has been organised at the General Post Office in Bengaluru. FILE PHOTO

The department is also looking to popularise its export services as the whole documentation process can now take place online. "The documentation process is integrated with the Customs system which is why the exporters do not have to come to Bengaluru for Customs clearance," the chief postmaster general said. He said while there are already tie-ups with the government for old age and social security pension payments, doorstep delivery of birth and death certificates, driving licences and RC books, it is the department's goal to ensure that all government ID cards and certificates are delivered through the postal service.

National Postal Week

Presently, to mark the National Postal Week from October 9 to 15, the department has taken up a special drive during which the Karnataka Postal Circle has opened over 85,000 accounts, including Sukanya Samruddhi and Post Office Savings account for people across the State. While several account opening melas are organised in the State on October 10 on account of Financial Inclusion Day on October 11, special postal covers along the theme of 'one district one product' will be launched on the occasion of Philately Day. "A special cover of Indi lemons will be launched in Indi and we will also release a cover of Ramanagaram coconut," Mr. Rajendra said.

On October 14, a special 'senior citizen-underprivileged children interaction' has been organised at General Post Office in Bengaluru. The senior citizens will be encouraged to write letters to these children as they would write to their grandchildren. Along with the interaction, a quiz competition will also be held that day. Throughout the week, an exhibition on special covers of Geographical Indication tagged products will be conducted at the Communications museum on Museum Road.

It is time govt. regulated therapies via social media, says HC

Special Correspondent
BENGALURU

It is time the government comes out with some regulatory measures to check the growth of online therapies and therapists as they are mushrooming on social media, said the High Court of Karnataka.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna made these observations while dismissing a petition filed by a 'wellness therapist' questioning the chargesheet filed against her by the police based on a plaint of cheating lodged by a man. The petitioner, Sanjana, 28, and the complainant, Shankar, 36, got acquainted through a dating app, *Tinder*, during the pandemic. As the complainant, during a chat with her, expressed stress, she offered him "therapy" by inviting him to her Instagram page – "positivity-for-a-360-life" – while claiming that she is a "wellness therapist" and sent him a message with the name "Rishta", which is not her name.

The complainant, who had transferred ₹3.15 lakh to her, had levelled charges of cheating on her saying she was operating at least 15 such fake profiles on Instagram and other social media platforms under different pseudo names.

He had started verifying her claims after she declined his request to meet her, resulting in him allegedly sending lewd messages to her due to which she blocked his account. Later, she also lodged a complaint against him with the police for sending lewd messages.

No ethics or regulated

The court observed, "It is in public domain that they are all pseudo-therapists who are 'Instagram influencers'. The present case concerns psychosomatic therapy or the wellness therapy. Therapists of the kind are many in number on social media. In reality, they are not bound by any ethics or not regulated by any norms," the court observed.

The court noted that ingredients of the chargesheet clearly make out a case of cheating against the petitioner as without having any team or any qualification whatsoever, the petitioner had created a web page *prima facie* to lure the complainant and the like.

The chats reveal that the petitioner had initially posed that she is a "wellness therapist" and her team would take care of the complainant, the court noted, while also pointing out that she had several such web pages in different names.

"There is no document or rather is an admitted fact that the petitioner has no qualification to be in the field of any kind of wellness therapy as projected. It is her own generated web page, without any qualification. Therefore it is a case where the petitioner without any substance or qualification lured the customers into the web of wellness therapy through the web page," the court observed.

Consent form

Interestingly, the consent form to which the complainant had signed stated that, "The content or information shared within a counselling season is by no means admissible as a government document or in the court of law or as any medium-bases evidence, should there be a summon." However, court said it does not mean that the petitioner can escape the clutches of law.

INBRIEF

Techie arrested for making hoax bomb threats

The Vidhana Soudha police on Saturday arrested a software engineer for making repeated hoax bomb threat calls to the Chief Secretary's office on Friday. Based on the complaint, the Vidhana Soudha police, with the help of Electronics City sub-division officials, tracked down Prashanth, 41, to his house in Hebbagodi and arrested him.

தமிழ் Double Drama Dhamaka - Sunday 9th OCT 2022
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Produced by Madhuvanthii
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IDHU NYAYAMA SIR
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SUNNI MUSLIM, Delhi based fmly with liberal views. Suitable match for daughter, 27 years / 165 cms. UG from leading Delhi University college and PG from Europe. Working in an organization affiliated to United Nations as Project Officer. Father in leadership role in corporate and mother is teaching in Delhi University. Suitable match from families with liberal views. WA details +91 8178780130

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AN INNOCENT DIVORCEE (no child) 35 years, Hailing from a well-cultured family, Diabetic, Christian Nadar, 165 cm, M.A. M.Phil.(ENGLISH) M.Sc. (YOGA) wheatish, slim, Working in reputed college in Chennai looking for a groom with decent earning & progressive mindset. Caste no bar. Contact through WhatsApp 94866 76864

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DOCTOR MD Anesthesiology 33/165 from affluent elite family of doctors. Cardiac Anesthesiologist in top hospital Chennai. Fair beautiful good mannered & cultured. Father Doctor Kerala Nair .Mother Tamil CSI. Doctor & Engineer grooms with MD MS MCh DM BE B . Tech from good family background from Kerala & TamilNadu preferable Ct: 9840050381/ 9840985383

GOVT / QUASI GOVT

PSU EXECUTIVE, Asst Mgr, B.Tech, PGDM, 32/160, Vanniyar/CNB, Chennai, 9488549285

HINDI

SONI GIRL 85/5ft 3inch qualified MCom MA working in MNC B'lore 11 LPA seeking qualified & suitable boy. klsonicad@gmail.com

KANNADA

Madwa Kannada Baradwaja Girl 49 Yrs MA, Fist Marriage seeks only Madwa Kannada Groom working in Hyd C: 7012725625/123gowris@gmail.com

MALAYALAM

NAIR GIRL @Chennai 26/147 BE Chadayam/ Chevva Dosam Seeks Grooms Nair/Menon Family 9840944880/ 9447696424

HINDU NAIR 28/170cm, Grade A Bank Officer, Bangalore.Seeks suitable Alliances from Parents of Nair Youths having PAN India Job. Ct:8547629425

AUSTRALIAN DOCTOR girl 25 fair and good looking from affluent family with liberal values seeks groom from similar minded doctors/ Dentists/ Professionals. Preference to those from Australia, UK or Newzealand. Should be willing to relocate to Australia. WhatsApp +61450634778

VANIYA VYSHYA Girl 26,165cm Pooruruttathi Msc B.Ed Teacher 9400732036

HINDU THIYA 29/156 Doctor Girl MBBS, MD, Central Govt employed seeks Doctor,profesnl.Ct:9444114016

GROOM WANTED
RC Girl 26/170cm Working In MICROSOFT. Parents Keralite Settled In CHENNAI. Own BUISINESS Seeks Chennai Based GROOM From a Good Family Background.
CT: 9884185583

PARENTS OF Hindu (Senguntha Mudaliyaar, OBC, Kerala) bride age 35,Anizham SBI Officer invites marriage proposal from parents of bank/govt. employed Hindu groom 9447183336.

Kochi based Ezhava Ph.D. Girl 34 yr, USA, looking for well-educated groom settled in USA / willing to. Please contact: 8921349686.

THE HINDU
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TAMIL

LOOKING FOR Christian Boy for the girl studying MS in US age 24. End time message believer. Ct:8939250457

RC NADAR Tamil Girl, 29 years, M.E., 5 feet, Vegetarian wants to be a home maker, invites marriage proposal from Govt. employee. Contact: 9442247012

CSI CHRISTIAN Nadar Girl Fair, Good Looking, 03–04–1986 born / 152cm / M.Sc M.Phil, working as Assistant Professor in a Reputed Women's College, Mount Road, Chennai. Both Parents Doctors (Private), Suitable Alliance, Employed / Settled in Chennai / With Clean Habits from Same Community. Contact: 9841182514

Post graduate,Roman Catholic 31yrs girl(divorcee with no children)from well educated Naidu family seeks post graduate employed Roman catholic boy 31-35 years (divorcee with no children) from well educated Naidu, Pillai or Mudaliar family. Contact 9443165647 or mail : drstephenkumar@gmail.com

SC CHRISTIAN 25/M.sc.,Test Engr., (Citycorp Services Pvt.Ltd.) 70,000p.m.seeks Bridegrooms. Ph:7397674481

WELL EDUCATED, Very rich CSI Nadar Parents invites proposal for their daughter, beautiful, fair well educated in business management working in a Foreign Embassy as Senior Manager in Chennai and also getting a monthly rent of Rs.5 lakhs from the share of her property. The Groom should be as above us and age 31 to 35. Parents Contact. 98401 29090.

Tamil Muslim 25/165 MD Radiology Seeks prof qualified groom Ct. 8220042091 mdullahsafi@gmail.com

Divorced Girl with 8yrs old girl, 34 / 5.2, M.E., (Phd.,) Asst Prof., Chengelpet Dist. Seeks professionally qualified Tamil Muslim Groom settled from Chennai. Mob.99409 09218

CHRISTIAN 26/165 Born again good looking MS employed Canada seeks God fearing Christian well educated employed groom in Canada/ US/ Australia/ Gulf. Caste no bar. 9600056955

WELL EDUCATED cultured Nadar Christian family, invites suitable proposals for their professionally qualified, propertied, cultured, fair, pretty 83' born daughter, from similar compatible boy with clean habits. Marthomites are also considered. Ph:9176070624 / thankannam@gmail.com

GAVARA NAIDU, Well employed/ business, Bridegroom with BE/ CA/ MBBS/MBA degree for Fair & Good looking Girl, Age 24, B.E working in IT, Chennai from Madurai origin, upper middle class. Contact: 63806 23267 / WhatsApp: 94450 02649.

ADIDRAVIDAR, SC, 33/169, MCA, Pvt. Job 20K pm seeks suitable Groom with sal 50K pm. Ct: 94455 07220

VISWAKARMA, 39 YEARS, parted at the time of marriage, divorcee, working in State Govt. Survey department Seeks bridegroom. Ct : 93626 25491

T. V. Mudaliar 32 / 165, Software Engr, Neelson IQ 25 lakhs/PA, Swathi seeks Engr/Dr. Bridegroom from Mudaliar, Pillai, Naidu. Contact - 94878 70179

HINDU ADIDRAVIDAR–SC, CNB 38/1984 Good looking girl, MA,Banking,Ashwini Chennai, 1st Marriage. 9500017884

HINDU MUTHURAJA, 28 / 155 / BE / Software Engineer in UK.Seeks groom in UK or willing to go to UK. Caste No bar. 99444 00307, 89034 21862

PILLAI, 26/165cm / BE, MBA (IIM) good looking fair girl / Chennai / MNC / 21 LPA. Seeks IIM / IITcian / Group A Officer / Doctor Groom. Caste No Bar. Contact : 99941 13213

Doctor Bride, 31 Yrs. Mudaliar seeking Alliance from Vegetarian, Medical/ Non Medical, well placed Groom from any backward Community. Contact: 9944955957.

VANNIA–KULA KSHATRIYAR, Fair Good Looking Girl 5'4"/57 Kg, October 1993, Uthiradam, Makaram, B.Tech , Sr.S/W Engineer, Bangalore seeks Suitable Groom, Cast No bar. Cont 9962014249 / raparthasarathi@gmail.com

PILLAI/MUDALIAR, 33, Good looking, MBBS, MD Final yr, Well Settled family seeks Groom aged 33-36 yrs, Engineer/ Business/ Doctor. 9345855735

ARUNTHATHIYAR, 25/152, BE, Chennai, Star Magam,Seeks Groom Govt Employee, Swe,Banks 9487303638/ 9443521217

EDUCATED EMPLOYED vegetarian groom wanted for 34 Tamil girl, PhD (Marine Biology), widowed (no child), with Intercaste professional parents. Ph: 9443123313

TAMIL

HINDU NADAR 35/151cm/ Fair/MSC Seeks Employed Groom with Good Family Contact: 91765 65441

Hindu SC/AD 30/160 BE, MS in US, Employed in US H1B Visa seeks Suitable Groom and from US/CANADA/ UK or willing to settle in US/UK/Canada Contact: 9945223333.

PROPOSALS INVITED for Beautiful RC Nadar Girl 26/5.6 MBA Family Nellai Well Settled in Chennai Business Group Contact: 7373627729

SC ADI Dravida 27 / M.E Central Govt Job Assistant Manager (NABARD BANK) 95000 pm. Seeks Groom 7200067015

MUDALIAR: 25/ V.Fair, MBBS,PG Doing, Chennai, Having Own Commercial Complex, Bus Service, Resorts, Only daughter, lite Family, Seeks Groom– Doctor/ Business / Eng– 8925019776

MUDALIAR (CNB) : 24/168,V.Fair & Beautiful, BBM, MS (Australia), Amazon, SWE, Australia, Business Family – Seeks Groom Any Abroad / Business – 8939012419

RICH HINDU Nadar 29/ B.E, Own Steel Industries & Finance family, Seeks Groom. 7200261495

HINDU DEVENDRAKULA Vellalar girl, 27 Yr, 5 FT, 65 KG, B.Tech (IT), CIT Coimbatore, Preparing for UPSC/ TNPSC, Uthradam, Father in IOC, GM, Madurai, Mother-Home maker, Brother, B.Tech (Mech), CIT, Coimbatore seeks professionally qualified, clean habits, family values, Doctors, Govt (Central / State), caste no bar. Contact: 6282328311 / 7550307487

35 B.COM MBA Pillai Anusham Raghu in lagnam Divorcee seeks suitable groom 9094020665

SEEKING ALLIANCE for Hindu, female, SC /AD, divorcee, working in public sector bank. Groom should be well mannered with a decent job and grounded with good values. Contact– 9962230051

HINDU MUTHURAJA 29/164cm, B.E., I.T, Seeks employed Engineering groom. Other B.C communities accepted. Contact : 98433 42955

MALAYSIA BASED Sozhia Vellala MBBS Doctor Bride with Master's in Medical law. 33 yrs, very fair, Tall (171cms) working seeks groom from Doctor/ Engineer. Whatsapp 9444054546

HINDU NADAR, 35/168cm, Fair, B.E., MBA seeks employed Groom with good family. Ct: 94429 96458

SAIVA PILLAI Fair 32/MCA Thiruvathirai seeks suitable Groom – 8838472223

MUDALIAR 35/PURAM/ 164/ B.E/ Working/ Divorcee (with in Month) seeks suitable Professionally qualified Hindu. Only subsect Nobar Ct:8825875775/ 9986594934/ y.deepika4@gmail.com

TIRUNELVELI SAIVA Pillai 22 / 170 BCA, LLB(Hons) Final, Good looking Girl seeks educated boy. 9842965999

VANNIYA KULA KSHATRIYA POORAM Unmarried 44/ 5.5/ MBA/ MNC –HR Seeks Hindu Unmarried Groom any Professional Degree from Chennai CT:7200094133

✔ **VANNIYAKULA KSHATRIYA, 26, Fair, Anusham, Only Daughter, MS, USA Employed, Family Well Settled in Chennai. Looking for High Qualified USA Working Groom. Whatsapp: 9884071390**

NAIDU 1994 BE MNC 80000 Kumbam Pooratathi Chennai. Wanted Suitable Groom. Contact: 6374517696

SEEKING ALLIANCE from broad minded persons for divorcee 33 yrs working in Infosys, Chennai as SAP consultant with 4 yr old girl child. Seeks Mudaliar (sub sect.) Ct: 96631 59200 / 9443964015

HINDU SOZHIYA Vellalar 38/160cm MBBS Govt, Divorcee (No Child) Seeks MBBS, BDS, PG Suitable Groom (No Child) Good Family. Contact: 9677300179 & 8015333556

✔ **WANTED A** practicing VEGAN Iyer groom from Chennai/Bangalore for VEGAN girl who loves animals Brahacharanam/Bharadwaj/Moolam/27yrs/5'6"/58kg/B.Tech/Amazon/Chennai. Contact 9444522571.

BRAHMIN GIRL 27Yrs Bharadhwaja Vathima M.com Professor Thiruvonam Magara Rasi Chennai.Subsect NoBar. Seeks Suitable Bridegroom. 9003136593

WANTED GROOM
Hindu SC Adidravida, BDS, 23, 158 cm Kadagam, Poosam, preferred MBBS/Group 1 officer from Adidravida Community.
Send details to Email:
arajagopal.mmtc1960@gmail.com
94449 44562

TAMIL

BRAHMIN
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9444959595
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PB No. 34, Chennai-600001

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Christian RC, Kamma Naidu, Fair, Good Looking Bride, 24 years/ 170cm, MBBS, Well Settled Family in Chennai. Looking for a Caring Groom, 25 to 29 years, Doctor / CA / Engg, Settled in Chennai. Contact / WhatsApp
73583 34190

Hindu-AD, Hastham 27/154 B.E MNC 16 Lakhs PA seeks suitable Alliance from same Community Ct:9444155781

RC NADAR (Caste No Bar), 31/ 153, B.Com., Working in Cognizant, Chennai. Cell : 87545 55239

BRIDES WANTED

BENGALI

Bengali, Hindu, Handsome 32 6' Asst Prof IIT Kanpur seeks suitable Bride caste no bar Wsp 8240619913.

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38 /170 CSI seek alliance from any denominatiion any caste Ct: 8428379890

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DIVORCEE

ALLIANCE (BRIDE) invited for well settled NRI return graduate engineer. Tamilnadu based chap second divorcee 58 /180 cm. Curious for issueless , who should be focused and escalate, loyal to stay Long. Ct: 63857 54610/82204 47993.

DIVORCEE IYENGAR Kowsika Uthradam 31 Yrs MNC 12L / Annum seeking Iyer/ Iyengar Graduate Girl Middle Class Divorcee without issue Contact: 9246827322 / 9849712068.

DOCTOR

TAMIL MUSLIM, MBBS, 25/174cm, Fair, Own clinic at Tirunelveli seeks suitable Doctor Bride. Ct: 95975 19637

DOCTOR SETTLED in Chennai Seeks Bride Same Profession age upto 26 years. Caste No Bar. Contact 9840658766

MALAYALAM

VELLALA PILLAI 35/175, Ayilyam, B.Tech./MBA, Senior Manager in MNC at Chennai. Salary 32 lakhs P.A., similar caste also considered. 9446023344

TAMIL

TAMIL –MUSLIM 30/5ft 7inch, Software Engineer in Seattle (USA), MS in Comp Sci (NY, USA). Affluent well–educated family from Chennai. Looking for bride from similar educated background. Ct: 9094349425 / 9941172456

CHRISTIAN PROTESTANT 27/180cm, BE, M.B.A, Technology Analyst, Chennai Seeks Employed/ BDS. Ph: 9962533637. Mail: manjukishor156@gmail.com

CSI NADAR MEng Mech Engineer 28/ 173 working in Ontario Canada and have PR. WhatsApp 9790841966

PROTESTENT CHRISTIAN 32, BE, MBA 175cm MNC 14Lak PA Chennai/ Seeks Well Qualified Girl. 6379397599

KONGU VELLALA GOUNDER, Venduvan Kulam, BE, MBA, 30Yrs,5.7" , Smart, Software Profession at CHENNAI, Divorcee, only Son for Agri family, own fertile lands and House near SALEM, seeks suitable bride from good family. Ct: 9626180162

HINDU, BE/31/SC –Caste No Bar/Ayilam–Katagam/Bangalore settled . Seeks Bride below 28yrs from well settled and educated family. Contact 9845401461.

MUDALIAR 29, BE/MBA, 22lacs PA, 176cm, Smart, Well Settled Family Seeks Bride CNB, 8778514465/ 7200866346

TAMIL

BRAHMIN 33/182CM BE,MBA MNC HR professional 8lac pa seeking suitable Brahmin educated bride (vegetarian only). Contact 7667724406

MITHUNAM THIRUVADIRAI 29/180 BE MBA Smart IT Seeks Homely, Educated, Mingle with join & Well Settled Family. SC Caste no bar Ct 8778546961 / Kalavathynatesan6953@gmail.com

MUDALIAR, 44/168, Own Business, 65000pm, Well Settled Seeks Bride from Well Settled Family. 9962582006.

AGAMUDAIYA MUDALIYAR, divorce, 40, Mirugasiridam, 170cm, Slim, Ph.D, Govt. Job, 1.10 lakh p/m, 7904550883.

VANNIYAR SEEKS Bride: 29 Yrs/ 175 Cm/ BE/ Working Chennai & Sister married & slightly having little bent in hand Contact: 9486515022 & 6300967708

Agamudaya Mudaliyar, 36, Rishabam,165, BE, SWE, Chennai 16.5 LPA seeks Employed SWE Bride Contact: 9487624807.

TAMIL HINDU Vellalar Pillai Rohini Rishabam 1985 B.Tech Working at SAAZVAT Technology Chennai. Seeking for fair looking educated bride. cast no bar.9976195464 / 9976195512

HINDU VELLALA pillai /mudaliar magaram avittam 29 yrs/175cms PhD canada, working in Sweden seeks suitable bride in abroad /willing to abroad. 9444425506

IYER, 46, MBA, now in CHN working for BLR based MNC seeks proposal from unmarried girls whatsapp details to 9962805875

MUDALIYAR 29/175 MD Pediatrician seeks bride MD/MS Doctor only, Ct: 8870616802 / 8310519896

VANNIYAKULA KSHATRIA Doctor M.D.,D.M., Slim fair Goodlooking 45/175 own Hospital 6L/p.m. Upper class well settled clean habits Innocent Divorcee Seeks Bride unmarried/divorcee Fair & Slim Doctor / any Graduate from Decent family below 38 yrs, No expectations. 6382218317.

WIDOWER, 59, Doctor, Chennai seeks life partner from widow, divorcee. E mail: selvaraju2022@yahoo.com

HINDU NADAR 34, 173cm, BE/MBA, Inc 3,00,000/– Working in Bangalore Seeks Bride KA Raman Nadar 9380791999

MUDALIAR 37,BE, Smart look,well Settled Chennai. Seeks Suitable Alliance. Ct: 8825965910, 8610518808

WANTED SMART and homely Bride for a fair and smart business man of 33 years, Hindu, Tamil – Vanniyar from a reputed family doing business in India & UK. Contact: 9094449149

CASTE NO bar: Parents intercaste marriage father RC vellala mudaliyar mother Hindu only son (30) MBA well off business family, Chennai, Ct 9940198599, saranya14469@gmail.com

ELITE MUDALIYAR 27/B.E, Own Rice Exporters, Own Hotels & Cinema Theatres, Well settled family, Seeks Bride. 7200259760

VANNIAR, 43/177 MA, MBA, 1 Lakh P.M, Unmarried, CNB. Seeks Good Looking Educated Bride. 73586 98406

GAVARA 1985 thiruvathirai ACS well placed seeks chennai bride CNB simple marriage assured 9790895631

HINDU, TAMIL, Yadava, Govt College Asst. Professor, UGC Scale Pay, 44 years old, innocent divorcee, without issue. 94872 65202, 94861 10424

HINDU THEVAR, 43/MCA Divorcee working in IT seeking widow Mob : 9110856896

TAMIL IYER Vaddola Hastham 43/182 Teetotaller Unmarried MCOM MBA Mgr Pvt Sect Mumbai 9.6 lpa seeks Unmarried South Indian Brahmin Girl from Good Family. Ct ragraji53@gmail.com, +91 9820801244

REDDIAR Boy, 40yrs, ME., working in US, Upper middle class seeks Alliance from Reddiar Family. Ct: 9677071874

TAMIL VISWAKARMA (GS) Veg, born 1979/ 168 cm, unmarried, BHMS, MPH, seeks suitable bride. Ct: 9480611093/9448656053/7349544114

MUDALIYAR 27/180 MS Working Australia Good Networth seeks BE/Graduate/ Interest study abroad. 7338976329

34 YEARS Old, Hindu, differently abled (Partially Dependent), Post Graduate, Employed in Chennai, Own House, Well Settled, Financially Sound Looking for Caring, Lovable, Compassionate Veg Life Partner. Ct: 9342749969, subhkam22@gmail.com

HINDU 39 Bachelor B.E Network Engineer, Clean Habits OBC Intercaste Parentage, Own House at Chennai. Seeks Graduate Bride above 30 years NCB within OBC. 9444475673, 9444222357

TAMIL

PROJECT MGR @Blore, Naidu/Anusham NoDosham 32/5'10 BE/MS(USA)Well settled. Seeks Educated Girl from Upr/Mid class fly. CasteNoBar 9841152054

45YRS MBA 2Lakh pm Business/Well Settled/Divorcee 2Kids.Seeks with kids Bride only.Caste NoBar. 9751887851

SEEKING MATCH for 37, 6' Tamil Hindu Brahmin Boy, Working for a top IT organization in Australia and on a Permanent Resident visa Girl should be Hindu Vegetarian please contact +91 95001 89609 or aravind7778@gmail.com for more details

IYER,VADAMA 41 Years, Self Employed Chartered Accountant in Erode. Having own house and earns 25LPA. Right leg slightly short. He can walk and drive vehicle normally. Need Suitable Bride. Call 9994934568

IYER BRAHACHARANAM/ Koundinyam/Avittam/88 June working in Bangalore in a pvt firm getting 4L PA seeks employed bride. Ct: 9443132445.

SRIVATSAM, (T) Visakam 37yrs BE, MNC Chennai Seeks Graduate Girl Ct: 98847 51601

IYER VADAMAL Bharadhwaja Kanni/ Hastham 32, B.Tech, IT, Chennai, Rs.80,000/- pm, Own House. Seeks Suitable bride, Subsect No Bar. Contact: 9962478809

TAMIL IYER Vadama Sandilya Kettai 26yrs Boy Pursuing 3rd year MD in MMC Seeking a suitable Doctor Girl . email: svisalam@gmail.com

HINDU IYER 33/163, Software, Income 19.5 LPA, Seeks Brahmin Bride. Ph: 9652799101 / 8309776289, Email: grajk03@gmail.com

TAMIL

BRIDE WANTED
A High Profile, Well - Established (Business) Family in Chennai, Looking for a Beautiful, Tall, Cultured Girl for their Tall, Suave, Humble and Caring 29 Year Old Son.
secretarytanya410@gmail.com
80726 23211

Tirunelveli
Saiva Pillai - 30,169 cm, B.Tech, MS(France), Maham - Simmam, lives in Coimbatore. Looking family Engg Business (factory). Father is an Industrialist. Expecting for a compatible match from the same community.
CT: 99449-72283

HINDU Nadar Divorcee 42, BE MBA M.Sc working in London, Qualified bride to work in London. ct: 9443926526, 9442248468. Caste nobar.

SEEKING BRAHMIN Bride willing to be Homemaker for our Son, MS (CS) USA, 27yrs/178 cms, Iyer, Koundinyam, Vegetarian, No Smoking, No Drinking. Rich or Poor Family does not matter.Ct: Whatsapp: +1 732 372 8410

TELUGU

SOUTH INDIAN BRAHMIN BRIDE WANTED
IYER BOY (35 years / 177cm, Fair, Kettai, Haritha Gothram, Vadama), B.E., working in Singapore in IT industry. Family well settled in Singapore.
Prefer bride below 30 years, fair, graduate and good family back ground. Subsect & region no bar.
What's app details to: +65-9154-7135

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ELITE BRIDES WANTED

BRAHMIN, 32, 173 cms, Software Professional, MS. Lives in USA. Father is an affluent Businessman with a good net worth. Looking for a compatible match. Contact: 6366448345

CASTE NO BAR, 29, 170 cms, Senior Government Officer, Double Masters. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Retired Government Officer. Looking for a well educated and affluent match from any community. Contact 6366448343

MUDALIYAR, 29, 180 cms, Software Professional, MS. Lives in California. Father is an affluent Businessman with a good net worth. Looking for a like minded match. Contact: 6366448344

CHETTIAR, 35, 173 cms, Software Engineer, BE. Lives in Chennai. Father is a professional. Family is affluent with a good net worth. Looking for an amiable match. Contact: 6366448344

CHETTIAR, 26, 175 cms, Software Professional, MS. Lives in USA. Father is an affluent Businessman with a good net worth. Looking for an affable match. Contact: 6366448345

ELITE GROOMS WANTED

REDDY, 25, 155 cms, Entrepreneur, B.Arch. Lives in Madurai. Father is an Entrepreneur. Family is financially well off with a good net worth. Looking for an amiable match. Contact: 6366448345

MUDALIYAR, 27, 152 cms, Doctor, MBBS. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Businessman. Family is affluent with a good net worth. Looking for like minded and well educated match. Contact: 6366448345

NADAR, 27, 157 cms, Professional, BE. Lives in Tiruppur. Father is retired. Family is financially well off with a good net worth. Looking for an affable match. Contact: 6366448344

ADI DRAVIDAR, 30, 163 cms, Entrepreneur, MBA. Lives in Chennai. Father is retired. Family is affluent with a good net worth. Looking for a like minded match. Contact: 6366448344

LINGAYATH, 26, 173 cms, Post Graduate. From a Bangalore based high profile family with very good net worth. Looking for an amiable match from the same community in Bangalore. Contact: 6366530296

Call for Free Consultation ✆ 63 66 44 83 47

TAMIL

VALLUVAR, SIVAKOTHARAM, 26/171 cm Thiruvathirai, Mithunam, BE(EEE), MSW(HR), HR(Operation Advisor) at Microsoft, Chennai seeks well qual groom with good sal. CNB.
Contact no: 7358573256

RCNADAR (Caste No Bar), 32/ 156, B.Tech., Working in Canada, having Canadian PR. Cell : 7538802230

TELUGU

NAIDU ISSUELESS Divorcee 46/151cms ACS MBA Empl PSU seeking suitable Bridegroom CNB Chennai Ct:9360167989

NAIDU: 27/168,V.FAIR & Beautiful, BBA, MS (USA) MNC, Chennai, Father Marbles&Granite, Resort Business Elite Family– Seeks Groom Abroad/ Business/ India– 8072706203, 7305810258

BALIJA NAIDU M.Com 28/5.4ft Hastham Upper Middle Class Seeks Groom B.E Employed Decent Family 9382187203 / 9003020618

RICH NAIDU (Caste No Bar). 36/M. Tech , Own Industries, Kalyana Mandapam etc, family. Seeks Groom. 7200259760

BALIJA NAIDU 25 yrs / 155 CM, Studying, PhD (Regular) Chennai. Seeks Engineer / Doctor. Bridegroom. Ct: 9486106465 / 8754645565.

NAIDU 29/165 Fair,Beautiful,MBBS, MS,Reputed Hospital,10Lac. PA,Affluent Family, CNB. 7299576644,7299576666

DOCTOR

VANNIYAR BOY 27/177 MDS Middle Class Asst.Prof, Seeks Dental/ Physiotherapy Bride. 9789859565, 9710330967

HINDI

1985/175CM. IT. 30 Lakhs PA. Chennai. Father Doctor. Seeks well educated bride. WhatsApp: 96290 12248

MALAYALAM

THIYYA MDS 32/167 Uthram Third Generation Dentist in 1950 Estabilished Clinic looking for MDS Girl Send Horoscope PostBox 2962, Coimbatore - 641012.

NATIONALISED BANK Officer boy IT working at Navi Mumbai 25/11/1996 Rohini 8.45pm Viswakarma166cm B.Tech (other Hindu castes are also considered) (Not Bureau) 8547035627

TRIVANDRUM NAIR boy Pooruruttathi, 41/173, B.Tech, Sr. Software Manager, MNC Chennai. Ph: 8129280150

TAMIL

NAIDU / 33,Own Business, Looking for suitable bride with good family background. Caste no bar. 9342481126

KANCHIPURAM MUDALIAR 53 Ph.D divorcee no issues returned from abroad sk suitable bride around 40 pref issueless 9500367269 sbkkeck@yahoo.com

VELLALAR NV 40/176 Divorcee no kid PG Sr. Mngr Bank, Singapore Seeks educated bride willing to relocate preferred. Whats app Only 9751261579

PROFESSIONAL, 30YEARS 185 cm. Currently working in Germany as a Senior Logistics Program Manager after MS in US. Employed in U.S.A for 4 years and two years in Dubai. Well Settled Family. Star Hastham & Backward Community. Seeks well Educated, Hindu Bride (Caste No Bar) for their only Son. Mobile 9840041041

YADHAVAR, TAMIL, 13–11–89, Sal. Rs. 1 Lacs, Divorced, NO Issue, Ambattur, Ct : 8015136228

TELUGU

BALIJA /KAMMA /Gavara Naidu 30–36 Good looking affluent, with a good net worth, seeking grooms from same community, Chennai settled family, fair and good looking with income above 20 L/ PA. Contact 8940022201

Suitable Telugu Brahmin Groom For Tall Slim Attractive Girl 24 Years/ 5'10" BTech & MTech At IIT Madras Working in MNC 36L PA. Vaidiki Velanadu Kasyapa Gothram Arudra 1P. Ph: 9247390475.

TELUGU

Wanted Groom Divorced/ Unmarried 32-35yrs/ 180cm, Fair, 80K Salary PM for Divorced Naidu Bride,31yrs/ 155cm MBA., Working. CNB. Ct: 9176659800

URDU

URDU MUSLIM, 39, Fair, Divorce, Asst. Prof, issueless, Seeking Groom From Same Chennai Based. 9025067019

URDU MUSLIM Labbai 30yrs/150cm, B.E Software Engineer/1.3 lakh PM. Seeks B.E, M.E, Engineer Groom KA & TN State Only. Ct : 94447 38598.

URDU

SMU, 32/170 BE,MBA, Busi.consultant IT Co. Chennai seeks Moral Educated Bride from Good Family. 8122989086

URDU MUSLIM Coimbatore based parents seek alliance for Son B.Tech, MS (USA) 29yrs / 174 cms settled in US, seeks Urdu / Tamil bride Studying/ Working in US or BE Computer Science Graduates willing to Study and Settle in US. Contact: 89408 53987.

SUNNI MUSLIM Boy(27yrs) BE MS working in USA seeks fair bride BE MS(USA) or BE.Ct: 91765 00652

TELUGU

HINDU TELUGU Balija Naidu Avittam 32 ME SWE 24L PA seeks Prof.qualified same sect bride Ct : 9952781602.

BALIJA 28/180CMS, Magam, Simma Raasi/ BE/ M.S (GER) Working in Germany 42Lpa, Financially Sound. Seeks Suitable Qualified Bride– Sub Sects No Bar. Ct: 9442623203 / 9442838203

ELITE RICH Balija Naidu 28/B. Tech.,Own Colleges Etc, Settled Family Seeks Bride. Ct: 72002 59760

KAMMA NAIDU 48/186 Sadayam, MCA Divorcee No Issues, IT Proj Mngr , Clean Habits. Seeks Bride. 8248522648

BALIJA NAIDU 33 years / 155 cm B.E MBA Architect & Interior Designer Own Business well settled family only Son mutually divorced with in 3 months wanted divorced bride without children.9884065632 / 9176667276

NAIDU 32/178 Handsome,MBBS,MS,Doctor SIIMS,12.Lac.PA, Affluant Doctors Family, CNB. 7299576644, 7299576666

HINDU KAMMAVAR Naidu Groom, 35y, 6f, BBA.MBA, Managing partner of well established Wheat Products Manufacturing business at Kovilpatti, Nagercoil, Kumbakonam Wishing to have an educated modest bride with moderate skills to manage family and business from average middle class Naidu family. Ct: 9442448570, email : prsskvp@gmail.com

TELUGU BOYAR 49/170 Widower, No issues Seeks bride below 37-43 yrs, any degree CNB - Ct: 9444950542

URDU

SMU SYED, 26/5ft 8inch, B.E,MBA, Engineer in Qatar, family in TN seeks Urdu Syed/Sheikh Graduate bride from TamilNadu. 9443841019

SMU 25 / 165 cms , Owns Profitable Business, well settled in Sydney. Innocent, Divorced, Affluent, Traditional Family with Modern Outlook Seeks never married, Fair, Good looking Chennai / Bangalore based Muslim Bride. Ct. Father 9840910774

BRIDES & GROOMS WANTED

ENGLISH

Alliance Invited from Professionally qualified Hindu boys for a Postgraduate, Keralite Hindu Girl 29/167cm, Star Rohini. WhatsApp 00971504459493, Call: 8714538381

TAMIL

HINDU SC Boy: Bharani/Mesham 27/5.5 BE/ME Infosys. Girl: M. Sirisham/Midhu 24/5.3 B.Com Chennai 9342113144

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RSS training camp in govt. residential schools draws flak

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government's decision to allow Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) to hold training camps on the premises of State-run residential schools in some districts has been met with opposition. This comes after a speech by RSS founder Keshav Baliram Hedgewar found its way into school textbook in Karnataka, stoking controversy.

Following a recommendation by Kota Srinivasa Poojary, Minister for Social Welfare and Backward Classes Welfare, Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society (KREIS), a government-run body, has given permission to an organisation affiliated to RSS to conduct training camps in Morarji Desai Residential School in Kolar and Uttara Kannada districts "without disturbing students." While a camp at Kalli, Shirasi taluk, began in October 7 and will end on October 15, a camp will be conducted at Kootandlahalli village, Mulbagal taluk, Kolar district, from October 9 to 17.

The note from KREIS says that "boys and youth" can join the training which will involve physical activities, personality development programmes, yoga and initiatives to promote nationalist thought. In a separate note circulated in Kolar, RSS, district division, said the participants should come with complete 'Ganavesha' (the RSS uniform) along with 'danda' (staff) for this training camp.

SFI threatens protest

Student's Federation of India (SFI) and other progressive organizations have expressed opposition to using government residential school premises for RSS training. They have threatened to protest in front of the Morarji Desai Residential School, Kootandlahalli village, on Sunday. Vasudeva Reddy, State Secretary of SFI, told *The Hindu*, "They are using residential schools, where SC, ST and OBC students are studying, for RSS activities. We have already complained to the Deputy Commissioner of Kolar district about this. The government should immediately cancel this."

Chorus grows for declaring Hesaraghatta Grasslands as conservation reserve

Green activists and residents to meet at Cubbon Park today to push State government to declare the grasslands as such

Hemanth C.S.
BENGALURU

Green activists and academics have been demanding that the entire area of 5,000 odd acres of Hesaraghatta grasslands, shrublands and wetlands be declared as Greater Hesaraghatta Grasslands Conservation Reserve. FILE PHOTO

The chorus to declare Hesaraghatta grasslands as Greater Hesaraghatta Grasslands Conservation Reserve is once again gaining momentum. Green activists and residents of the area, organised under the banner "Save Hesaraghatta Grasslands" will meet at Cubbon Park on October 9, Sunday, to push Karnataka government to declare the grasslands as a conservation reserve.

In 2021, the Forest Department had proposed before the State Board for Wildlife, chaired by the Chief Minister, to declare the grasslands as Greater Hesaraghatta Grasslands Conservation Reserve which was rejected by the Board. It was alleged that an MLA from the ruling party had influenced the decision. However, in July earlier this year, High Court directed the State Board for Wildlife to reconsider the proposal to declare the grasslands as a Conservation Reserve. The Board was supposed to meet on September 5, but that meeting is yet to take place. Green activists and academics have been demanding that the entire area of 5,000 odd acres of Hesaraghatta grasslands, shrublands and wetlands to be declared as Greater Hesaraghatta Grasslands Conservation Reserve.

Vijay Nishanth, president, Project Vruksha Foundation who is spearheading this campaign has already written a letter to CM Basavaraj Bommai appealing him to declare the grassland as a conservation reserve. "With Bengaluru having a population of 1.3 crore and the northern side of the city having no green cover, it is imperative, Hessarghatta becomes a conservation reserve to make this great international city liveable and protect it from flooding, pollution and water scarcity. We hope the right decision is taken in the interest of the people and environment in which they live-for our children to survive," Nishanth stated in the letter.

Dr. T.V. Ramachandra of the Centre for Ecological Sciences, IISc. said that grasslands help in recharging the groundwater and retain the rainwater in the catchment area thereby giving security to the dependent people.

He added that grasslands help in the diversity of pollinators and wherever the native species or plants are there, water is available for twelve months. However, wherever people have degraded the catchment area, the water availability is only for four months. "The pollinators are abundant and diverse when the catchment is dominated by native species. Our study shows that in a catchment where the native species are there, we see that yield of the crop is more. For example, the yield of paddy is 14 or 15 quintal per acre in a region where degradation has not happened as against degraded land where the yield is only 6 to 8 quintal per acre," he added.

Leo Saldanha of the Environment Support Group said that grassland ecosystems apart from supporting wildlife populations also support villages. However, he is against treating grass lands as a sanctuary.

"The problem with the Wildlife Act is it will make it out of bounds for the local shepherds and local cattle herders. If there is no grazing then woody vegetation would take over and it will become a deep-rooted forest. You should not protect it totally, you should treat it as a community reserve and not as a sanctuary, A sanctuary will block any human activity, it will become a picnic spot, it won't survive as an ecosystem because the woody vegetation would take over and the grasses will die," he said.

Community support to tuberculosis patients: Karnataka among top five States

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

With around 2,000 registered Ni-kshay Mitras in Karnataka, who have adopted Tuberculosis (TB) patients, Karnataka is among the top five States in the country. Overall, 29,831 Ni-kshay Mitras have been registered in the country.

The Union Health Ministry launched the 'adopt a TB patient' (Ni-kshay Mitras) initiative on September 9 to fill the critical 'community' elements into India's fight towards the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan aimed at eliminating TB by 2025. The initiative allows any individual to adopt one or more TB patients and look after their nutritional and medical needs.

Following a review of TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan conducted by the Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan on Friday, Arundathi Chandrashekar, State Mission Director, National Health Mission, held a State-level review with district TB officials with focus on scaling up the campaign. State Health Commissioner Randeep D., who has adopted a TB patient, said improved nutritional status and weight gain in TB patients results in a better treatment outcome. He appealed to people to come forward and enrol as Ni-kshay Mitras.

Ni-kshay Mitras Top 5 States

Uttar Pradesh	11,928
Madhya Pradesh	3,832
Uttarakhand	3,139
Maharashtra	2,056
Karnataka	1,909

(Source: Ni-kshay Mitra dashboard)

While the State reported 72,703 notified TB cases in 2021, as many as 58,982 cases (including 14,381 private notifications) have been reported this year till September 30. Of the 58,982 notified patients, 37,333 are still under treatment.

State Deputy Director (TB) Ansar Ahmed told *The Hindu* on Wednesday that only 76.3% (28,493) of the 37,333 patients under treatment have consented to receive community support. While 2,534 patients have declined community support, the consent of remaining is pending, he said. He said the State is doing its best to identify missed TB cases by increasing the number of presumptive tests. "To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG-3) target for TB (Baseline 2015), we need to reduce TB incidence rate by 80% and TB deaths by 90%. The current death rate is 5.5%," Dr Ahmed said. He said the State was focussing on early diagnosis by taking up biannual active case finding activity, differentiated TB case finding activity that involves triaging and risk assessment of all diagnosed TB patients, death audits to identify the cause of death and TB and comorbidities linkage activities.

Apart from individuals, co-operative societies, corporates, elected representatives, institutions, non-governmental organisations, political parties and partners who can support by adopting the health facilities (for individual donor), blocks/urban wards/districts/States for accelerating the response against TB to complement the government efforts, as per the district-specific requirements in coordination with the district administration can register as Ni-kshay Mitras.

The 1,909 registered Ni-kshay Mitras in the State include 1,480 individuals, 25 elected representatives and 89 NGOs. Sources said a MP from the State is likely to adopt all the TB patients under treatment in Bengaluru Rural shortly. The support provided to the patient under this initiative is in addition to the free diagnostics, free drugs and Nikshay Poshan Yojana provided by National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP) to all the TB patients notified from both the public and the private sector.

Timings
BENGALURU

SUNDAY, OCT. 09	
RISE 06:09	SET 18:04
RISE 17:53	SET 05:30
MONDAY, OCT. 10	
RISE 06:09	SET 18:04
RISE 18:33	SET 06:22
TUESDAY, OCT. 11	
RISE 06:09	SET 18:03
RISE 19:14	SET 07:14

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	31	23
Mysuru	30	19
Bengaluru	28	20

Bengaluru Today
27°C The weather will be comfortable but humid.Night will be pleasant. Few spells of moderate to heavy rain and thundershower will occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
25°C A comfortable but humid weather to continue. Night will be pleasant. Spell of moderate to heavy rain and thundershower to occur.

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THE HINDU
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NOTICE

This is to inform that our Proposed Project, M/s. JRC PROJECTS located at of Sy. No. 31, 32, 110 & 111/2 Rayasandra Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban dist. File No SEIAA 151 CON 2019. Karnataka has been accorded with Environmental Clearance from Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India. Copies of Clearance letters are Available with the State Pollution Board and may also be seen on the Website of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change at http://www.envfor.nic.in

M/s. JRC PROJECTS
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Description of work	Approx. Value
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AUCTION NOTICE NO. 02/2022
No. S/RWP/Sale/Auction Programme/ 2022-23 Date: 07.10.2022 Auction will be conducted for disposal of scrap material Skull, Slag and Other Misc. Scrap. **The date of e-Auction Programme for the month of October, November & December-2022.**
SN : 1, Depot conducting Auction : RWP/Bela, Saran, **Date of e-Auction :** 21.10.2022, **SN : 2, Depot conducting Auction :** RWP/Bela, Saran, **Date of e-Auction :** 04.11.2022, **SN : 3, Depot conducting Auction :** RWP/Bela, Saran, **Date of e-Auction :** 18.11.2022, **SN : 4, Depot conducting Auction :** RWP/Bela, Saran, **Date of e-Auction :** 02.12.2022, **SN : 5, Depot conducting Auction :** RWP/Bela, Saran, **Date of e-Auction :** 16.12.2022, **SN : 6, Depot conducting Auction :** RWP/Bela, Saran, **Date of e-Auction :** 30.12.2022
1. The details of item to be sold in auction will be available in catalogue at **www.ireps.gov.in**. **2.** The intending purchasers may inspect the scrap materials before the auction during working hours at nominated locations. **3.** To participate in e-auction, purchasers need to get themselves registered with ireps. For further details regarding registration and other condition of e-auction, please visit railway website **www.ireps.gov.in**
Dy. Chief Material Manager-II/RWP
RWP/CPRO/ADVT/2022-23/69

DOCUMENT LOST

I,Norena Sophia W/o Mahammed Inayatulla R/a No. 136/38, Bhajane Mane Street, Anekal Town, Bangalore Urban District do here by solemnly affirm and state on oath as that in connection with Property situated at Anekal Town Ward No. 8, 2nd Cross, Manjunatha Layout, bearing Site No. 08, the Reg No. ANK-1-26736/2004-05, ANK- 1-12999/2005-06, ANK-1-00070/2008-09 and Reg No.: 1183/1986-87. I have all the above property. In the meanwhile on 10.02.2022 while shifting the house accidentally I have lost all the above 4 Original Documents. I have put all my efforts to find the same but I could not trace the same .I have also given a police complaint to near by Police Authorities on vide Lost Report No. P.O. No. 1330220600459/3.10.2022 made this affidavit concern authorities to get the above and to get lost document in duplicate. I further declare that the information furnished is true to the best of my knowledge and belief sworn before Advocate and Notary Muniswamy .T. on 03.10.2022. **If found Contact No. 8892255851**

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Client **Sri. A. J. NIRESH ARAVIND,** S/o Sri.J.Venugopal Arumugam, Aged about 30 years, R/at No.610, 21st Cross, Kumaraswamy Layout 1st Stage, Bengaluru-560078, is intending to purchase the Schedule Property mentioned below from **Sri. J.PRADEEP KUMAR,** S/o Late Sri.S.M.Jaganath, Aged about 42 years & **Smt. VANAJA,** D/o Late Sri.S.M.Jaganath, Aged about 19 years, residing at No.544, 91st Cross, Near Dayananda Sagar College, Kumaraswamy Layout 1st Stage, Bengaluru-560078. Any person or persons having any manner of right or title or interest or claim or objection or however otherwise, may file his/her/ their objections or claims in writing to the below mentioned address with relevant documents in support of his / her /their claim or objection within **15 days** from the date of this public notice, failing which my client will proceed to purchase the Schedule Property treating that there are no claims over the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Municipal **No.544,** Old EWS House No.544, PID No.55-853-544, situated 91st Cross, Kumaraswamy Layout 1st, within the Jurisdiction of B.B.M.P. Ward No. 181, Bengaluru, measuring East to West 9.60 Meters and North to South 4.90 Meters, totally measuring to a extent of 47.04 Square Meters and bounded on : **East by: Road, West by : Drainage, North by : EWS House No.545 and South by: EWS House No.543.**

Lokesha.G, Advocate,
No. 235, 8th Main, Byrasandra, Jayanagar, Bengaluru-560011
Mob: 9845307906.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No. 10-SNT-MYS-2022
Dated: 03-10-2022
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites Tenders for the following works:

Sl.	Name of work	Approx. Value
1	Provision of Coach Guidance Display Board at Harihar-PF-3, Ranibennur-PF-2, and 3, Kadur-PF-1 & 2, Sagar Jambagar-PF-1, Subrahmanya Road- PF- 2 and Tiptur-PF-2 & 3 over Mysuru Division.	Rs. 2,07,81,668.15
2	Replacement of Integrated Passenger Information System at Arsikere, Bhadravati, Davangere, Hassan, Shivamogga Town and Coach Guidance Display Board at Tiptur over Mysuru Division.	Rs. 2,35,86,020.09
3	Shifting of signal and telecom cables in connection with work of extension of platform at Sagarakatte - Station in Mysuru-Arsikere Section.	Rs. 11,02,112.11
4	Signal and Telecom work for closing of Traffic interlocking LC No. 105 at Km 139/100-200 at Kabakaputtur, in connection with proposed construction of RUB in lieu of LC No. 105 at Kabakaputtur Station Yard.	Rs. 13,92,691.07
5	Provision of Annual Repair Contract (ARC) of Universal Fail Safe Block Instrument (UFSBI), DELTRON make for Two Years over Mysuru Division.	Rs. 28,33,288.00

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 28-10-2022**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, Mysuru PUB/408/AAD/PRB/SWR/2022-23
S.W.Railways SWRRLY SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No.Y/E.29/2022-23/22
Dated: 01-10-2022.
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites Tenders for the following work:

Description of work	Approx. Value
Electrical piece work (Zonal work) for Senior Section Engineer/East/ Arsikere Jurisdiction for a period of One Year.	Rs. 17,00,000/-

Last date for submission of bids : **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 24-10-2022**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer PUB/411/AAD/PRB/SWR/2022-23 **Mysuru**
S.W.Railways SWRRLY SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Application Notification No. 210/ Halt/SBC/10/2022
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites sealed applications for appointment of Halt Agent from educated unemployed persons residing in and around the **Belandur** Road Halt Station in Bengaluru - Salem Section for issuing Unreserved Tickets on Commission Basis for a period of Five (05) Years or till up-gradation of the station whichever is earlier.
To Start functioning from : Dates to be notified by the Administration.
Last date for submission of Application: **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 18-10-2022**
For fetails log on : www.swr.indianrailways.gov.in
Senior Divisional Commercial Manager PUB/409/AAD/PRB/SWR/2022-23 **Bengaluru**
S.W.Railways SWRRLY SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that our Client **Shri. DURGESH CHAURASIYA** S/o. Shri. Santlal Chaurasiya and **Smt. NANDINI KUMARI** W/o.Shri.Durgesh Chaurasiya Both are Residing at: No.117, 4th A Cross, near to Om Shakthi Temple, Banjara Layout, Kalkere, Bangalore-560043 are intending to purchase the Scheduled Property from **Smt. A.PRIYADARSHINI @ A.PRIYADHARSHINI** W/o.Late.Shri.Murali N Residing at No.307, 1ST d Cross, HRBR Layout, 3rd Block, Bangalore-560084.Any person/s objecting for said Purchase or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof within **15 days** from the date of publication of this notice with the under mentioned advocate failing which; our client shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

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East by : Site No.99, West by: Road , North by Site No.97, South by : Road

C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants
Bangalore-43. M: 9845846428, 7204863700

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- Automotive / EV ECU-VCU development, BMS, Telematics
- High end IoT products, 4G/5G Telecom products, High Speed Digital Design for Motherboards, SSDs

Eligible interested candidates are requested to attend walk-in interview on October 14th and 15th from 10 AM to 6 PM at

Syrma SGS Technology Ltd

Chennai Office
B27, Phase 2, MEPZ-SEZ, Tambaram Sanatorium, Chennai - 45
Contact: 044-71728600

Bengaluru Office: Unit G501 & 502,#7, Sigma Soft Tech Park, Ramagondanahalli, Whitefield Main Road, Varthur - Kodi, Bengaluru - 560066
Contact: 9766224400

Freshers or Diploma candidates to avoid this walk-in and may send their resumes by email to sdc@syrmasgs.com for consideration in other open positions.

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Special team in every police station to identify foreigners staying illegally in Bengaluru

570 illegally staying foreigners identified from March to August 2022

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

After repeated complaints regarding illegally staying foreign nationals, the city police have sprung into action and every police station now has a special team just to identify and act on such people in their respective jurisdictions.

The city police, after forming these special teams in March 2022, have found around 570 foreigners (till August 2022) overstaying in the city after the expiry of their visas, according to data tabled in the Legislative Council. The data tabled by Home Minister Araga Jnanendra also says 5,936 foreign nationals are residing in the city and 3,517 people are studying in various institutions till August 2022.

In March this year, Mr. Jnanendra directed all police stations to conduct a survey of foreigners staying in their jurisdictions and submit a report to the government. Speaking to *The Hindu*, a senior police officer said, "Following the direction by the Minister, the department with the help of the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) started the survey by the teams formed at the police station level and identified the illegally overstaying foreigners."

Central Crime Branch officials conducting a special drive on foreigners living without valid documents. FILE PHOTO

Foreign nationals

5,936 foreigners staying in Bengaluru

Of them, **3,517** are students

Special team to track down illegally staying foreigners formed in March 2022

570 illegally staying foreigners identified between March and August 2022

Imprisonment and fine

Officials said overstaying in India beyond the visa date can lead to a fine, imprisonment of up to five years and even a ban on entering the country again. "Now after finding out about the illegal overstaying of foreigners, we have intimated about them to respective embassies of their country and also to the Ministry of External Affairs. Apart from this, they will be kept at the Foreigners Detention Centers in the city till cases against them are disposed of and they get an exit permit from the concerned departments," the officer explained.

Mr. Jnanendra said the government has given instructions to the police department to soon deport overstaying foreigners in the city since they may indulge in anti-national activities. "Those who were staying illegally were arrested and sent to a detention centre and I have directed officials to process the further procedure of deporting overstaying foreigners soon to their country."

Detention centres

Meanwhile, police officials say there is a shortage of detention centres in the city to accommodate overstaying foreigners and they had proposed to the government to expand the capacity of the existing detention centres for foreigners.

A police source said, "Due to space constraints, the detention centre staff are returning overstaying foreigners back to the police. With no options available, we arrested them under the Foreigners Act and remanded them to judicial custody to Parappana Agrahara to accommodate them." In August this year in a meeting, Mr. Jnanendra urged the Social Welfare Department to sanction the project and release funds for expanding the detention centre in the city. In the meeting, Social Welfare Minister Kota Srinivas Poojary said his department will review the proposal.

Overcrowding

The existing detention centre at Nelamangala on the outskirts of Bengaluru, according to officials, is small and there was a need to expand it further. The detention centre with a capacity of around 40 inmates, gets overcrowded and the officials consider the gender and seniority of the inmates to release them after an undertaking.

The police also avoid booking foreigners under IPC and other Acts as they would prefer to get arrested and sent to Parappana Agrahara instead of going to the detention centre and being deported, a senior officer said. The arrest and remanding them to judicial custody also indirectly get them permitted to stay in the city as they cite the reason for cases booked against them and stay back on the pretext of attending court hearings, according to police.

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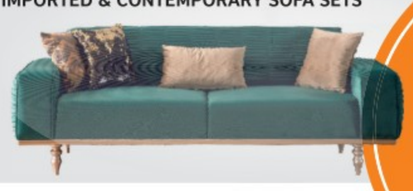

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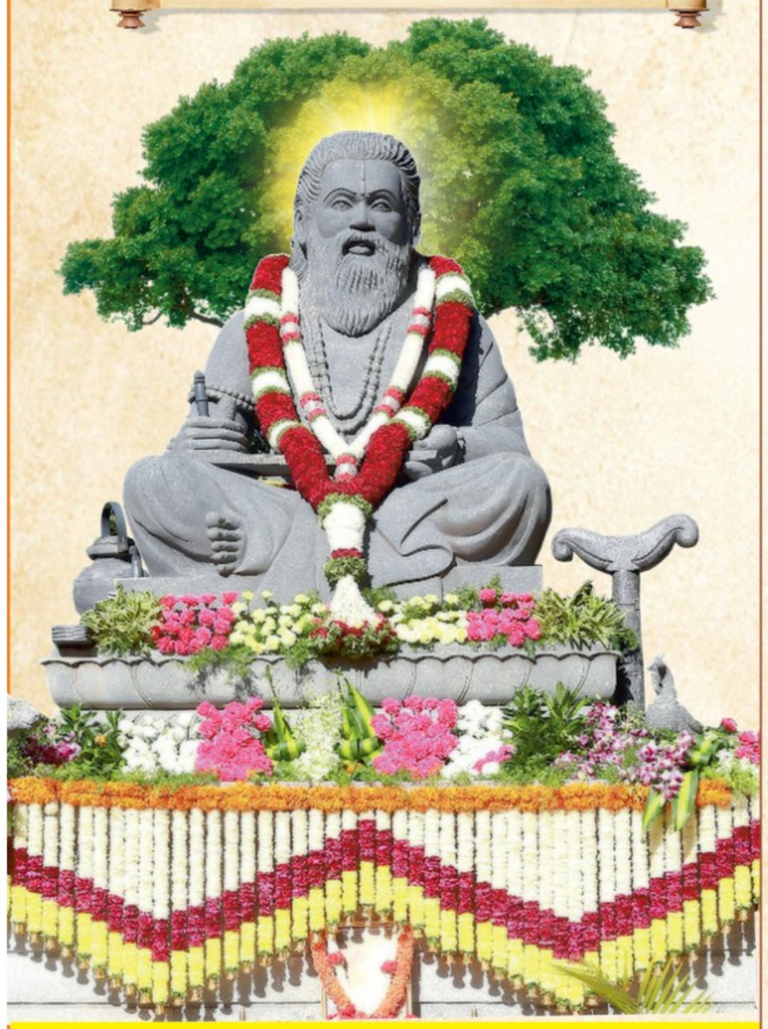
Inauguration:
Sri Basavaraj S. Bommai
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Paying tributes to the statue of Sri Maharshi Valmiki
Sri B. Sreeramulu
Hon'ble Minister for Tribal Welfare Department & Transport Department

Koojantham Ramaramethi Madhuram Madhuraksharam II
Aaruhya Kavithashaakhaam Vande Valmiki Kokilam II



Ramayana the great poetry is widely respected by one and all across the world including poets, thinkers, intellectuals, common man alike since yore, Let's pay our humble tributes to Sri Maharshi Valmiki, who was the author of this masterpiece

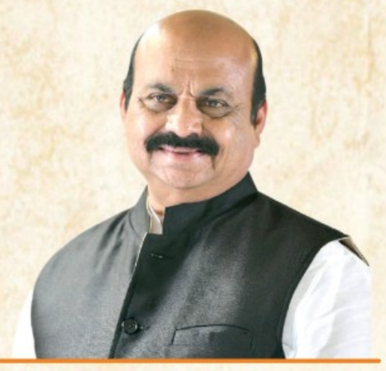
Scheduled Tribes Welfare Department

Sri Maharshi Valmiki Jayanthi
&
Sri Maharshi Valmiki Award Presentation Ceremony

Date : 09.10.2022 Sunday Morning : 10.30
Venue : Banquet Hall, Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru.

Presided by :
Sri Rizwan Arshad
Hon'ble MLA, Shivajinagar Constituency

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav



Sri Basavaraj S. Bommai
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Major Schemes by the Government for Comprehensive Development of Scheduled Tribes in Karnataka
Education, Training, Social Empowerment, Infrastructure and Economic Development Programmes

- A grant of Rs **8121.87** crore has been earmarked by Hon'ble Chief Minister under the Scheduled Tribe sub-scheme for the current year 2022-23 and various development projects are being implemented by all departments.
- A total grant of Rs.**1683.97** crore has been provided to the Scheduled Castes Welfare Department for the year 2022-23.
- There are **419** hostels and residential schools in the state, of which **39,918** students were being provided admission and supported for high quality education.
- A grant of Rs **225.07** crore is being allocated for scholarships for **6.10** lakh pre-metric/post-metric students.
- An incentive of Rs **100.28** crore is being given to **86,896** students who passed in first class in the first attempt in the SSLC annual examination.
- To encourage higher education among children belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Minorities and other categories, Hon'ble Chief Minister announced a new scheme in the Budget for the current year 2022-23 called **"Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Souhardha Vidyarthi Nilaya"** – a 100 capacity multi-storied complexes being constructed for the first time at Belagavi, Hubballi-Dharwad, Kalaburgi, Mangaluru and Mysuru, the educational centres of the state at a cost of Rs **250** crores.
- For the year 2022-23, steps are being taken to construct own buildings for 70 SC and 30 ST hostels within the limits of 100 Assembly constituencies with the funds provided to the Public Works Department under the SC/ST sub-plan.
- Under the **GOAL 2.0** programme, of Hon'ble Chief Minister, steps are being taken to implement the programme in association with SHGs and NGOs to create awareness among young boys and girls and women of scheduled tribe using the master classes of meta's tools and resources through **Facebook** live stations and Meta Business Coach, automated educational chatboat on **WhatsApp** platform.
- As many as **2,848** houses are being constructed in collaboration with the Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation at Rs **3.75** lakh per unit for the genuinely vulnerable tribal communities such as the Jenu Kuruba and Koraga communities.
- A sum of Rs **100** crore has been provided for construction of houses for nomadic, semi-nomadic, vulnerable and hyper-vulnerable communities of Scheduled Tribes through Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation for the year 2022-23.
- Under **Bhagya Jyothi and Kuteera Jyothi** schemes of Hon'ble Chief Minister for the current year 2022-23 free electricity up to 75 units are being provided to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe families in rural areas.
- It has been announced to set up outlets in urban areas to ensure competitive price for minor forest produce and handicrafts collected from tribals.
- For the first time, steps are being taken to provide financial assistance of **Rs 50,000** for the purchase of electric three-wheeler goods vehicle worth Rs **1.5 lakh** to promote self-employment and boost self-confidence among the youth belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
- Additional nutritious food is being distributed to **46,711** families at a cost of Rs **52** crore under nutritious food scheme in addition to ration food grains for the tribals dwelling in forest and forest border areas.
- Disbursement of incentives under inter-caste/widow/sub-caste marriage of inter-caste/sub-castes and under the programme of marriage of children of Devadasis.
- Construction of CC Roads, drainage and community halls in the habitats of scheduled tribes.

Karnataka Sri Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation Limited:

- Under the Land Ownership Scheme, **1210.34** tari/khushki/bagaytu acres of land has been purchased at a cost of Rs.**8923.50** lakhs and a total of **817** landless women agricultural labourers belonging to Scheduled Tribes have been provided with agricultural land and made them land owners.
- Under self-employment, entrepreneurship development scheme, a total of **2,373** beneficiaries have been provided benefits at a cost of Rs **4656.71** lakh.
- Under the self-employment direct loan scheme, the facility amount is being increased from Rs **50,000** to Rs **1,00,000** lakh with a financial target of Rs **300** lakh and a physical target of **300**. Of the said facility amount, Rs.**50000** is a grant-in-aid and Rs.**50,000** is a loan and the loan amount will be borne by the Corporation itself.
- Under the Prerana **(Micro Credit)** Micro Credit Scheme at a cost of Rs **952.20** lakh, a total of **3810** beneficiaries have been benefited.
- Under the **Samagra Ganga Kalyana Yojana,** a total of **1091** beneficiaries have been provided with borewells to irrigate the dry agricultural land at a cost of Rs **2312.44** lakh.
- As many as **305** solar powered street lights have been installed at a cost of Rs **189.93** lakhs in the area inhabited by nomadic, semi-nomadic communities.
- In order to promote entrepreneurship among scheduled caste and scheduled tribe women, 25 percent of the target in self-employment and other programmes is being earmarked in all corporations under the departments.
- Steps have been taken to train **300** women graduates belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the prestigious IIM, Bengaluru, to facilitate them to setting up of industries.

Sri B.Sreeramulu, Hon'ble Minister for Scheduled Tribes Welfare Department and Transport, and with Sri S.V. Ramachandrappa, President, Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation and Member of Legislative Assembly at the departmental function.

Hearty Welcome to All:

P. S. Kantharaju, K.A.S
Director,
Scheduled Tribes Welfare Department

Kavitha M. Warangal
Managing Director,
Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribal Development Corporation

It is the duty of every citizen to protect and preserve the natural environment including forest, rivers, lakes, and wildlife.

Hearty welcome to all Honourable Union Ministers, Union Ministers of State, Ministers of Karnataka Govt., Members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, Vidhana Sabha and Vidhana Parishath, Elected Representatives and Presidents of Boards/Corporations.

INBRIEF

Govt. will set up corporations for nomadic communities: CM

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Saturday said a decision has been taken to constitute separate corporations for nomadic communities. Talking to reporters after the Cabinet meeting, he said H.N. Nagamohan Das Commission report has opined that the benefits of reservation has not reached many communities and steps should be taken to provide justice for them after studying all legal aspects. The Union government has amended the Constitution and issued orders to give 10% reservation for the economically backward people and this has crossed 50% quota, said the Chief Minister. This has been questioned in the Supreme Court but no adverse verdict has come so far, he said.

Masti Kadambari-Katha Puraskar ceremony on Oct. 15

Masti Kadambari-Katha Purskar 2022 award presentation ceremony organised by Dr. Masti Venkatesh Iyengar Trust will be held on October 15. Noted poet Dr. Doddarangegowda will present the awards to Mallikarjuna Hiremath, Dr. Gajanana Sharma, and Dadapeer Jaiman. The award presentation ceremony will be held at Bharatiya Vidyabhavan premises on Race Course Road, at 10 a.m., according to a release.

KDA to hold free training camp in Bengaluru

A one-day free training camp on 'Language Skills in Motion Pictures' in collaboration with Sinighama Institute and Kannada Development Authority will be held on Sunday at 10.30 am at BM Sree Pratisthanam, N.R. Colony, in Bengaluru. T.S. Nagabharana, chairman of Kannada Development Authority, will inaugurate the camp. Film directors like P. Seshadri, Shashanka, and writers M.L. Prasanna and N.S. Sridharamurthy will participate. The closing ceremony will be held at 5 p.m. in which B.R. Ravindranath, director, Institute of Translation Studies, and Santosh Hanagal, secretary of Kannada Development Authority, will take part.

Rahul Gandhi to vote for Cong. president election in Ballari

Rahul Gandhi and other delegates part of the Bharat Jodo Yatra will vote in the Indian National Congress president election on October 17 at a campsite in Ballari, Jairam Ramesh, AICC General Secretary (Communications), said. "The central election authority of the party has decided to set up a polling booth at the campsite in Ballari where all delegates taking part in the Yatra will cast their ballot. October 17 will be a rest day for the Yatra to allow delegates to cast their votes in the president election," Mr. Ramesh said.

COMEDKARES to be inaugurated on Monday

COMEDK (Consortium of Medical, Engineering and Dental Colleges of Karnataka) is on Monday launching COMEDKARES, an initiative to provide a learning environment with focus on skills and exposure to advanced technology, said a release. C.N. Ashwath Narayan, Minister, will inaugurate COMEDKARES in the presence of M.R. Jayaram, chairman, COMEDK. The inauguration will be at Innovation Hub, Tabs Complex, Puttenhalli Main Road, Doddaballapura Road, Yelahanka. Shortly, branches will be opened in Mysuru and Mangaluru, said the release.

State govt. to soon issue notification on increasing reservation for SCs, STs

A special Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai decided to implement the report of a committee headed by retired High Court judge Nagamohan Das on reservation *in toto*

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Seers meeting Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai in Bengaluru on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Karnataka government will issue a notification in 2-3 days on increasing the reservation for Scheduled Castes from 15% to 17%, and for Scheduled Tribes from 3% to 7%.

Briefing presspersons after a special State Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister J.C. Madhuswamy said the Cabinet has decided to implement the entire report of a committee headed by retired High Court judge H.N. Nagamohan Das which recommended increasing reservation for SCs from 15% to 17%, and for STs from 3% to 7%.

The Minister said the Government Order on increasing the reservation for SCs and STs would be issued in 2-3 days. "The Cabinet meeting has taken the decision to implement the Nagamohan Das Commission report in *toto*. We are going to issue a Government Order. The modalities and details on how to go about it and its implementation will be given in the order."

Beneficiary communities

The hike in reservation would benefit 103 communities in the SCs and 56 communities in the STs.

To a question regarding the possibility of reducing the quota of other communities such as general category and OBCs, Mr. Madhuswamy said "Whenever you have reservation, we are there to eat somebody's benefit. But we have to safeguard the interests of the downtrodden and underprivileged, who have suffered for a long time and had no scope of competing with the creamy layer of society".

Internal reservations

An all-party meeting convened by the ruling BJP government on Friday reached a consensus on increasing reservation for SCs and STs.

On providing internal reservation among SCs and STs, Mr. Madhuswamy said the Chief Minister had suggested forming a committee under the Law Department and submitting a report after consultations with all other departments. The committee would study the providing of an internal quota within the limits of the Nagamohan Das Committee report.

Asked about the fate of the GO if challenged in the court, Mr Madhuswamy said, "The government is doing its work. We have to fill up many vacancies in the departments. The government is for empowering SCs and STs".

Responding to a query on the requirement of constitutional amendment to increase the quota beyond 50%, he said "Executive work and legislature work are entirely two different issues. As of now, we have decided to implement the government order. The government has some purpose and ideology. We will do our work."

He said the government would also explore introducing a Bill in the State legislature in December, 2022, to increase the quota. Later, it would urge the Centre to pass the Bill in the Parliament for a constitutional amendment to expand the reservations to more than 50% under Scheduled 9 of the Constitution, along the lines of the Tamil Nadu government, which has increased reservation up to 69%.

In the Indra Sawhney case in the early 1990s, the Supreme Court restricted the reservation to 50%. Currently, Karnataka provides 32% reservation for OBCs, 15% for SCs and 3% for STs, totalling 50% as capped by the Supreme Court.

Convene all-party meet on Panchamasali reservation too: Seer

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

The seer warned of laying siege to the Vidhana Soudha in November if the demand is not met

As the Karnataka government has decided to increase the quantum or reservation of SC/ST communities, other communities are upping their ante on quota-related demands.

Sri Basava Jaya Mrutyunjaya Swami, seer of Lingayat Panchamasali Peetha of Koodalasangama, who is spearheading the Panchamasali movement for inclusion under 2A category, has warned of laying siege to the Vidhana Soudha in the second week of November if the Chief Minister failed to convene an all-party meeting on the issue.

Speaking to presspersons in Belagavi on Saturday, the seer said they welcomed the government's decision on increasing the SC/ST reservation to the community. But at the same they would like to remind the government about the ongoing agitation by the Panchamasali community.

The Chief Minister had already broken his promise four times regarding taking a decision on community's demand. "We want him to convene an all-party meeting, similar to the one being held on SC/ST reservation immediately and if not we will lay siege to the Vidhana Soudha," he said. The Panchamasali convention is being held at Hukkeri on October 21 and they have demanded action on the issue by then.

Strong case to breach the 50% cap, says Nagamohan Das

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With the hike in reservation for Scheduled Castes from 15% to 17% and for Scheduled Tribes from 3% to 7%, the total reservation in the State will go up to 56%

H.N. Nagamohan Das said his report has made out a case as to how the increase in reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the State was an "exceptional case", warranting total reservation to cross the 50% cap imposed by the Supreme Court in the Indira Swahney case of 1992.

"The Supreme Court itself has provided an opportunity to cross the 50% cap on total reservation in exceptional cases, with empirical data. All we need to do is to make a strong case, which we have in the present instance," Mr. Das told *The Hindu*. With the hike in reservation for SCs from 15% to 17% and for STs from 3% to 7%, the total reservation in the State will go up to 56%.

"Socio-economic profiles of SCs and STs are available in the general census and the committee led by me has studied the historical progression of these communities over the decades in the State. Our study revealed that though SCs and STs have improved in many aspects like education, employment, human development index, they continue to be backward compared to other communities. For instance, while they are over represented in Grade C and D jobs, they are under-represented in Grade A and B jobs. They are under-represented in higher education among other indicators of backwardness," Mr. Das explained. "In the absence of a caste census report accepted by the State government, we have compared the socio-economic profile of SCs and STs with surveys carried out among OBC and other communities of the State."

"Since the OBC population in the state is estimated to be 52% and the reservation they enjoy is 32%, we have recommended accommodating more reservation for SCs and STs from the General Category. Since 10% EWS quota has also been implemented for the poor among the general category, from communities who do not otherwise have reservation, they are also not affected by this move," he argued.

Mr. Das said the State government must immediately implement the hike in reservation in the State through an executive order and later pass a Bill in the legislature and send it to the Union government to be included in the IX Schedule of the Constitution of India, to provide some protection from judicial review.

RSS helped the British while Cong. fought for freedom: Rahul Gandhi

Sathish G.T.
TURUVEKERE (TUMAKURU)

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi taking part in the padayatra on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi alleged that the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangha (RSS) was with the British during the freedom struggle and Hindutva ideologue V.D. Savarkar took stipend from the British.

He was addressing a press conference at Turuvekere on Saturday, the 31st day of Bharat Jodo Yatra. Responding to a question on the BJP's allegations that the Congress was responsible for partitioning the nation, Mr. Rahul said Congress leaders fought against the British and spent years in jail. "In my understanding of history, the RSS was helping the British. Savarkar was getting stipend from the British. These are historical facts," he said. It was the Congress that led the freedom struggle, gave a Constitution for the country and ushered in the green revolution. "The BJP was nowhere in the freedom struggle. It is single-handedly spreading hatred and dividing the nation," he said.

Answering a question on his personal experience in the yatra, Mr. Rahul said over the years a distance had developed between the political class and citizens. "There are easy ways of communicating with people. I believe in tapasya. My family believes in tapasya. I wanted an element of suffering in the process of communicating with people. Hence, we chose to walk on the road and remain physically close to people," he said. The journey had been a powerful experience for him. "When you walk on the road and speak to people, the communication is better. For me, it is a learning experience. It has only been 31 days and I can already see the advantages of this mode of communication," he said.

Asked who would become the next Chief Minister in Karnataka if his party came to power, Mr. Rahul said it would be decided through a set process in the party. Asked if his party would join hands with the JD(S), he said he was sure of the Congress winning the election hands down.

Party leaders D.K. Shivakumar, Siddaramaiah, B.K. Hariprasad, AICC general secretaries Randeep Surjewala and Jairam Ramesh were present.

I have strength to fight, says Deve Gowda

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

JD(S) leaders H.D. Deve Gowda, C.M. Ibrahim, H.D. Kumaraswamy at 'Janata Mitra' in Bengaluru on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Exuding confidence that the JD(S) will again come to power during his lifetime, H.D. Deve Gowda, former Prime Minister and party supremo, said although he is still recovering, he has the strength to fight.

"I will soon visit every district in the State and every ward of Bengaluru to save our party. I will also participate in the party's forthcoming executive committee meeting. I appeal to you with folded hands to save and build this party," said an emotional Mr. Gowda, addressing JD (S) party workers at the valedictory of 'Janata Mitra' programme on Saturday.

The former Prime Minister, who attended a public function after a long time, pointed out that former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy strived for 10 years to save the party. "I am confident that the party will come to power again. Mr. Kumaraswamy will again become Chief Minister. I still have the strength to fight and till my last breath I will not allow any injustice to happen to Karnataka," said Mr. Gowda.

Launching a scathing attack on the BJP and the Congress, Mr. Kumaraswamy called upon people to make a wise decision while electing a party to power.

Alleging that the BJP and the Congress are looting taxpayers, he said while one party is talking about 40% commission, another is raising the Arkavathy land denotification case and irregularities in power purchase. "The decision is in your hands. You should choose a party that will work for your welfare and development of the State," he said, listing out promises if brought to power.

"Congress leaders on Bharat Jodo Yatra are now saying society is divided into rich and poor classes. How come they realised it now and not during their 45 year tenure?" he asked.

Referring to communal clashes and unrest in society, Mr. Kumaraswamy said the BJP is dividing society in the name of religion. "Teenagers and youth are being roped in to supply drugs. Prime Minister Narendra Modi talks about clean governance. Drugs worth crores of rupees being supplied in the country are from the ports of Gujarat but they are misleading that it is happening from the coastal belt," he said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients **Mr. SATEESH TALASILA and others**, resident of # 1-31, Nagayalanka, Krishna, Andhra Pradesh-521120, intends to purchase schedule property from **Smt. Muniyamma and others** resident of No. 179, Madakari Nayaka Road, Yerraiahyyana Palya, Ramamurthy Nagar, Bengaluru - 560 016. Represent by their developers namely **M/s. V Group Represented by its Proprietor Sri. Ajeeth**. Any person, claiming to have any charge, lien, interest minor, claims, right's whatsoever over the schedule property may lodge their claim to the undersigned with documentary proof on or before 15/10/2022 failing which my clients will treat that there are no objections or claims in respect of the schedule property no claims shall be entertained there after.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the residential apartment **3 BHK** bearing number **C-112** on the 1st Floor in the Project known as **"V" CLASSIC** constructed on the Schedule A Property with **1488** Square Feet having undivided share of 605.14 Square Feet constructed on Survey Number 104/2, Old Survey No.104, vide conversion order bearing No. ALN(K.R.P)CR.138/2018-19, dt.27.03.2019, situated at: Kowdenahalli Village, K.R. Pura Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, within the jurisdiction of BBMP, Katha No.14, totally measuring 2 Acres 16 ½ Guntas.

VEMURI SRINIVAS
BHAGAWANTHI ASSOCIATES
Advocate & Consultants
1st Cross, Kaveri Layout, Marathahalli,
Bangalore - 560 037.
Mail: vsradvocate37@gmail.com
Mobile : 9243110037 Date : 09/10/2022

UDUPI CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
K M Marg, Udupi Pin - 576101

Tender Notice (only through e-procurement)-Call-3

Tender Notification No. UCMC/HS/ABC/01/2022-23 Date 07/10/2022

Udupi CMC invites detailed proposals ("the Proposals") for conducting survey (Census of dogs), Catching Stray Dogs, implementing the Animal Birth Control (ABC)/Anti Rabies Vaccination (ARV) Programme and Euthanizing the sick, rabid & rogue dogs in a humane manner. The Request for Proposal (RFP) Document may be downloaded for the e-procurements website. The proposals would be evaluated and the Successful Bidder would be selected on the basis of the criteria specified in the RFP document.

Tender Reference: (E procurement)	UCMC/HS/ABC/ 01/2022-23/CALL-3
Period for downloading the tender document for e-Procurement web site:	From 07/10/2022 to 25/10/2022
Last date for submission of Proposal (Proposal Due date)	17:00 Hrs on 25/10/2022

Sd/-
Municipal Commissioner
Udupi CMC

From Page One

Study on fog conditions gets 69% success rate

Upon completion of the study, the team plans to give information to the airport, airlines and other stakeholders at around 10 p.m. every day on the possibility of fog occurrence.

"What we have observed from our experiments so far is that fog usually starts during the early hours of the day. If we are able to give information around 10 p.m., the airlines and others involved can take a call beforehand whether to depart from their respective airports or not and avoid circling the Bengaluru airspace," he added.

While signing the agreement, BIAL had said once the Numerical Simulation Tool is developed, the airport will be able to receive visibility information well in advance. "The prediction mechanism will hugely benefit airline operators, who incur additional financial losses owing to diversions and lengthy delays," it had said.

Ola, Uber autos will be seized, says Minister

"Notices have been issued because there are violations. After we get a reply from them, I will take a decision in a couple of days," the Minister said.

Taxi aggregators have claimed that the department cannot act against them because of a case pending before the Karnataka High Court. Ola and Uber will face action for illegally aggregating autorickshaw rides, according to department officials.

INBRIEF

IMD issues yellow alert for five districts in Kerala today

A yellow alert has been issued for five districts in Kerala on Sunday by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) warning of isolated heavy rain. The alert has been sounded in Kottayam, Idukki, Malappuram, Kozhikode and Wayanad districts. An yellow alert has been issued for Malappuram and Wayanad districts on Monday. The State is also likely to receive light to moderate rainfall till Wednesday, triggered by a cyclonic circulation over the Bay of Bengal.

'Chandrayaan-2 Orbiter maps abundance of sodium on Moon'

ISRO says that in a recent work published in 'The Astrophysical Journal Letters', Chandrayaan-2 mapped the abundance of sodium for the very first time using its large area X-ray spectrometer

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A file photo of Chandrayaan-2 lifting off from Sriharikota.

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Saturday said that the X-ray spectrometer CLASS payload onboard the Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft, has mapped the abundance of sodium on the moon for the first time.

The space agency said the Chandrayaan-1 X-ray Fluorescence Spectrometer (CIXS) detected sodium from its characteristic line in X-rays which opened up the possibility of mapping the amount of sodium on the Moon.

ISRO said that in a recent work published in 'The Astrophysical Journal Letters', Chandrayaan-2 mapped the abundance of sodium on the Moon for the very first time using its large area X-ray spectrometer, CLASS.

Built at the U.R. Rao Satellite Centre of ISRO in Bengaluru, CLASS provides clean signatures of the sodium line, thanks to its high sensitivity and performance.

The study finds that a part of the signal could be arising from a thin veneer of sodium atoms weakly bound to the lunar grains, it added. These sodium atoms can be nudged out of the surface by solar wind or Ultra Violet radiation more easily than if they were part of the lunar minerals. Also shown is a diurnal variation of the surface sodium that would explain the continuous supply of atoms to the exosphere, sustaining it.

ISRO said that the new findings provide an avenue to study surface-exosphere interaction on the Moon.

Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft was launched in July, 2019.

'Ordinance on online gambling will come as a relief to families of players'

Nahla Nainar
TIRUCHI

The promulgation of an ordinance to ban online gambling in the State will come as a relief to families of compulsive players caught in the throes of this addictive pastime, say social and mental health workers in the city.

The ordinance "prohibiting online gambling" was approved by Tamil Nadu's Council of Ministers on September 26, and was mooted in response to recurring incidents of suicide by people who apparently lost their money to online gambling, and demands by various political parties.

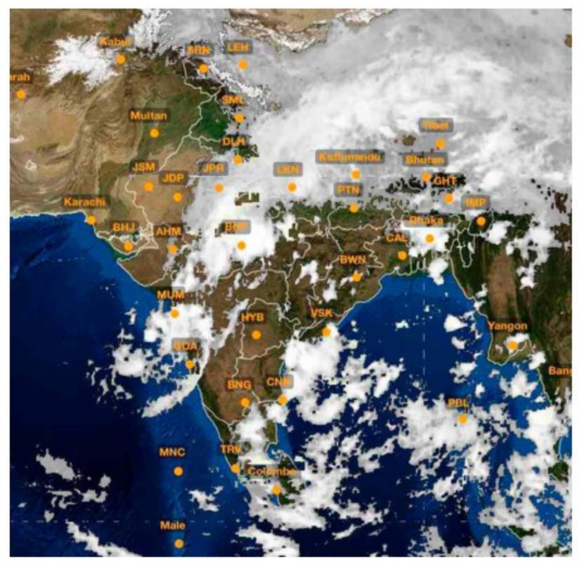
Lured by the promise of earning money without investment, many adolescents and young adults are getting addicted to online gambling in the city, with easy access to online banking making it possible for children to hack their parents' accounts to fund their habit, social workers pointed out.

The problem could also be a hidden consequence of leaving students unmonitored during online classes, especially during the COVID-19 lockdown years, say social workers.

"Nearly everyone from the age of six years onwards has been exposed to online education in the past two years, increasing the use of electronic devices among school-going children. Online gambling is just the latest in the list of destructive software-based hobbies," M. Rajaram, consultant psychiatrist, Athma Hospitals and Research, told *The Hindu*.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Meghalaya, Sikkim, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala and Mahe. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, central Maharashtra, Konkan & Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	33.8	26.0	Kozhikode	—	31.0	23.5
Ahmedabad	7	32.8	24.2	Kurnool	18	32.8	23.2
Aizawl	—	27.0	21.1	Lucknow	1	31.4	22.7
Allahabad	—	34.6	25.4	Madurai	—	37.0	24.7
Bengaluru	—	28.0	20.0	Mangaluru	—	30.0	22.2
Bhopal	16.3	30.0	22.8	Mumbai	114	30.0	23.0
Bhubaneswar	0.6	31.6	25.1	Mysuru	—	30.4	19.3
Chandigarh	—	29.7	24.2	New Delhi	25	23.4	20.4
Chennai	1	32.3	25.6	Patna	0.3	34.0	25.0
Coimbatore	—	32.6	21.9	Port Blair	0.9	30.7	24.9
Dehradun	5	25.4	21.5	Puducherry	8.2	31.2	24.0
Gangtok	25	21.4	16.7	Pune	0.6	27.7	21.9
Goa	—	31.4	22.8	Raipur	—	33.2	24.3
Guwahati	3	34.9	24.4	Ranchi	—	32.6	21.9
Hubballi	—	29.0	20.0	Shillong	2	24.5	16.0
Hyderabad	—	31.2	22.4	Shimla	—	17.5	13.5
Imphal	—	29.8	19.3	Srinagar	—	26.8	8.6
Jaipur	5	25.0	22.7	Thiruvananthapuram	—	32.0	23.1
Kochi	—	30.0	23.8	Tiruchi	—	33.6	25.0
Kohima	—	25.4	16.2	Vijayawada	5	32.2	24.4
Kolkata	1	35.6	26.4	Visakhapatnam	17	28.4	25.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	111	80	.66	40	69	
Bengaluru	23	28	.73	—	111	
Chennai	17	—	.34	227	119	
Delhi	14	69	.44	73	65	
Hyderabad	8	2	127	—	28	
Kolkata	9	13	.55	34	47	
Lucknow	10	48	.40	—	59	
Mumbai	33	14	.19	226	—	
Pune	—	38	.73	—	—	—
Visakhapatnam	33	40	.19	26	41	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Tiruppur, Tamil Nadu recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 192 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Maihar, Madhya Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 14

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Government of Gujarat

Solar Power fuelling India's sprint towards Self Reliance

India's First 24x7 BESS based
Solar Powered Village: Modhera - 'Suryagram'

Dedication to the nation by
Shri Narendrabhai Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister

Date: 9th October 2022
Time: 3 PM

Venue: Delvada Khant, Mahesana-Becharaji Highway,
Ta.: Becharaji, Dist.: Mahesana, Gujarat

Solarisation of Modhera Sun Temple and Town Project to provide round the clock (24 x 7) solar energy to Modhera village through 6MW Solar Power project integrated with **15MWh Battery Energy Storage System (BESS)** set up at Village Sujjanpura, District Mahesana, approx. 6 kms away from famous Sun Temple, Modhera.

SALIENT FEATURES OF THE PROJECT

- Modhera village is the first modern village having solar based ultra-modern electric vehicle charging station
- Modhera village has India's first grid connected MWh Scale Battery Energy Storage System
- At Modhera village 1300+ houses have own rooftop solar system, whereby they are saving 60% to 100 % in electricity bill.

M BG-BGE

From Page One

Technology eases path for the weary

A communication network was worked out and radio messaging was used to reach those grazing livestock in the upper reaches to relay messages about free transportation and the halting points.

The Tribal Affairs department also collaborated with the Forest Department and the Census Operations Department to provide smart cards to tribal families. "The smart cards will replace the multiple permission regime and offer a unified central database to all the organisations and agencies for smooth and hassle-free movement of families during the biannual vertical migration," Mr. Chaudhary said. Embedded with a chip, the smart card contains demographic details, transit routes, originating place, destination and other details.

Every year, Niyaz Khatana, 67, his wife, two younger brothers and four children, migrate from Rajouri in May, when the temperature soars and becomes unbearable for cattle. They walk along the Mughal Road for 230 km distance to reach Margan Top in south Kashmir, where the highland meadows offer a cooler environment during summers. Thereafter, they trek up to subalpine and alpine meadows and grazing pastures along with their sheep, the main source of income for the family. "It takes two or three days to reach our *bahak*s (traditional mud huts) from Margan Top to grazing pastures. From May till October, sheep live in pastures surrounding Margan Top and are able to gain weight due to quality grass available in these areas," Mr. Khatana said. However, after working hard for four months on sheep-rearing, the journey gets difficult and dangerous when they return to the Jammu plains from Kashmir's hills in September or October.

"I lost 112 sheep to a speeding truck on the Kokernag-Shopian highway in the middle of the night in 2017. In 2015, our family got stuck and lost cattle due to the harsh weather on Mughal Road (which connects Shopian valley with the plains of Poonch)," Mr. Khatana said.

Transhumance refers to the practice of moving animals to different fields in different seasons. According to the first-ever survey conducted by the Tribal Affairs Department on transhumance in 2022, around 98,000 families undertake biannual vertical migration in Jammu and Kashmir. Close to 12,000 of these families use the Mughal Road and the Srinagar-Jammu national highway.

Accidents and traffic blocks

"Their journey takes 30-45 days end-to-end, out of which more than half is on roads, involving several transits and halts. Hundreds of animals and even several people were lost in accidents during migration. They also cause traffic obstruction," Dr. Chaudhary said.

However, the journey to the plains along these highways has eased this year after the intervention from the government. "In April 2022, the department provided transport for families and livestock during migration, mainly on highways and the Mughal Road. This move is also an outcome of policy collaboration with the University of Shkoder, Albania," Dr. Chaudhary said.

Fifty trucks and 100 light commercial vehicles were deployed and Deputy Commissioners were authorised to hire vehicles to ferry nomads and their livestock safely on the highways. The service is presently offered in 13 districts with the migration routes. "Of the 13 districts, Anantnag, Shopian, Ganderbal, Pulwama are focus areas with maximum migration, followed by Kupwara, Baramulla and Bandipora. Ten trucks each, along with lighter vehicles, were provided in Anantnag, Shopian and Ganderbal," Dr. Chaudhary said.

He said two transit accommodations have been arranged and work on seven such facilities are going on. "More than 12,000 families will be provided services over a period of one month up to October 25 this year," he said. The free transport service will reduce their travel time considerably and save the livestock from any natural disaster on the highways, Dr. Chaudhary said.

Blast damages Russia's arterial link to Crimea

The Russian National Anti-Terrorism Committee said a freight truck had blown up on the bridge's roadway at 6.07 a.m., causing seven fuel tanker wagons to catch fire on a train heading for the peninsula on the bridge's upper level.

The blast took place a day after Mr. Putin's 70th birthday, and coincided with the naming of Air Force General Sergei Surovikin, Russia's third senior military appointment in the space of a week, to take overall charge of the invasion effort.

The head of Ukraine's National Security and Defence Council, Oleksiy Danilov, posted a video of the burning bridge on social media alongside a video of Marilyn Monroe singing "Happy birthday, Mr. President".

Since the start of the invasion on February 24, Ukrainian officials have made regular allusions to their desire to destroy the bridge, seen in Ukraine as a symbol of Russia's occupation of Crimea. Ukraine's postal service said on Saturday it would print a special stamp to commemorate the blast.

Russia's Defence Ministry said in a statement that its forces in southern Ukraine could be "fully supplied" through existing land and sea routes. The Transport Ministry said road traffic for light vehicles and buses had resumed in alternating directions on the intact half of the roadway. Goods vehicles were being referred to a ferry service.

Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said Kyiv's reaction to the destruction of civilian infrastructure "testifies to its terrorist nature".

IAF all set to create a new weapon systems branch, says Air chief

New branch will lead to unification of all weapon system operators under one entity, says Air Chief Marshal V.R. Chaudhari; the move will save the exchequer as much as ₹3,400 crore

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

V.R. Chaudhari during the Indian Air Force Day. TWITTER/@IAF_MCC

The government has approved the creation of a Weapon System branch for officers in the Indian Air Force (IAF) which will bring all weapon systems operators of the force under one roof. This is the first time since Independence that a new operational branch is being created, said IAF chief Air Chief Marshal (ACM) V. R. Chaudhari on Saturday. The IAF also unveiled a new digital camouflage uniform for its rank and file.

"This will essentially be for manning of four specialised streams of Surface to Surface missiles, Surface to Air Missiles, Remotely Piloted Aircraft and weapon system operators in twin and multi crew aircraft," ACM Chaudhari said addressing the Air Force Day parade to mark the 90th Air Force Day celebrations at Chandigarh. "Creation of this branch would result in savings of over ₹3,400 crore due to reduced expenditure on flying training."

Creation of the new branch would entail unification of all weapon system operators under one entity dedicated to the operational employment of all ground-based and specialist airborne weapon systems, a Defence Ministry statement said.

"In a break from tradition, we have decided to conduct the Air Force Day parade at Chandigarh this year and in different locations across the country from here onwards," the Air Chief said. "Today is an occasion to renew our allegiance to the Constitution of India and as preservers of the integrity and sovereignty of our country, we owe it to our future generations," he stated.

As reported by *The Hindu* earlier, for the first time both the Army and Air Force Day parades are moving out of the National Capital Region (NCR). The next Army Day parade on January 15, 2023, will be held in Southern Command area.

Following the parade in the morning, a fly past was held over Sukna lake in Chandigarh which was witnessed by the public in large numbers. The flypast saw the participation of 74 aircraft and helicopters including 44 fighter aircraft while another nine platforms were on standby in the air. The Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) was also part of the air display while the Suryakiran acrobatic team enthralled the viewers. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh joined the Air Force Day celebrations. President Droupadi Murmu attended the flypast at Sukna lake. This shift of venue follows Prime Minister Narendra Modi's guidance that major events in New Delhi should be moved out to various places across the country to enable more people to witness and engage in them.

Induction of air warriors into the IAF through the Agnipath scheme is a "challenge for all us", but more importantly, it is an opportunity to harness the potential of India's youth and channelise it towards the service of the nation, he said. Stating that in December this year, they would be inducting 3,000 Agniveer Vayu for their initial training, he said this number will only go up in the years to come to ensure adequate staffing.

For an exclusive video
On 90th Air Force Day, IAF gets new weapon systems branch
https://bit.ly/3SOqdAL

Debate over audio VVPAT slips for visually challenged

Damini Nath
NEW DELHI

Akshay Bajad decided to file a plea after EC said that his suggestions are still under consideration

A petition admitted by the Supreme Court last month that called for the introduction of technology to allow visually challenged voters to verify their votes has set off a debate, with some disability rights activists raising concerns over the practical issues that may crop up.

On September 23, the court admitted the petition filed by Mumbai-based activist Akshay Bajad that suggested that image text to speech (ITTS) conversion software be added to the electronic voting machines (EVM) and voter verifiable paper audit trail (VVPAT) units used for elections. The court ordered notices to be sent to the respondents, the Election Commission (EC) and the Law Ministry, to be replied by October 21.

Dr. Bajad, an ayurvedic doctor, said he had decided to file the petition as there had been no progress after writing to both. In an RTI Act reply to him on July 4 about the status of his representations, the EC said they were "still under consideration".

The petition sought directions to the EC and the Ministry to embed ITTS software into EVMs "so as to ensure that voters with sight disability can exercise their right to vote in an autonomous and independent manner with the means of verification of the vote cast by them".

Mr. Bajad submitted in an annexure to the petition that the ITTS device could be automated to activate itself once the voter casts the vote and the VVPAT prints the slip. This, he said, could be done by having a camera that senses the motion of the paper trail and then activates the optical character recognition (OCR), which is the conversion of images of text into machine-encoded text. The text would then be converted to speech that could be heard by the voter through headphones, he suggested.

Santosh Kumar Rungta, the general secretary of the National Federation of the Blind, said though the idea was "noble", there were some "practical concerns", including issues with the text-to-speech conversion software.

"There should be intensive analysis of any technology being proposed. The introduction of such technology should not mean that blind voters cannot take an escort along with them, as we do right now," he said.

12 killed, 43 injured after bus hits truck, catches fire in Nashik

Abhinay Deshpande
MUMBAI

Police say the bus driver directly rammed the coal-laden truck's fuel tank

Twelve persons, including a two-year-old child, were killed and 43 injured after a Mumbai-bound private sleeper bus they were travelling in hit a trailer truck and caught fire in Nashik, Maharashtra, in the early hours of Saturday.

Nashik City Police Commissioner Jayant Naiknavare said the accident took place around 5.15 a.m. near Nandur Naka. He said the bus coming from Yavatmal district was carrying passengers much beyond its capacity. "The driver of the coal-laden truck and the ill-fated bus failed to negotiate the square at the intersection and did not apply brakes; as a result, the bus driver directly hit the truck's fuel tank on the side, and the bus caught fire immediately," he said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed pain at the loss of lives and announced an ex gratia of ₹2 lakh from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund to the next of kin of each victim. The injured would be given ₹50,000.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde too announced an ex gratia of ₹5 lakh each to the next of kin of victims.

We are very confident of navigating OPEC+ supply cuts, says Hardeep Puri

Sriram Lakshman
WASHINGTON DC

Hardeep Singh Puri

India is "very confident" of navigating a planned output cut by the oil producers' cartel, OPEC+, Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri has said.

His remarks, made to the press in Washington DC, comes two days after oil cartel OPEC+, a group led by Saudi Arabia and involving Russia, announced that it would cut production by two million barrels per day. "We are very confident of being able to navigate through the situation," Mr. Puri said, adding that when prices go up, energy security and affordability were major concerns, but suggesting that India had been able to manage spikes in energy prices earlier.

On the decision of the OPEC+ oil cartel to cut production, the Minister said all decisions had intended and unintended consequences and it remained to be seen how this would play out.

The OPEC+ decision was likely to be "scrutinised very carefully", Mr. Puri said.

On the Group of Seven (G7) advanced price cap on Russian oil, the Minister said India was studying the issue "very carefully". The government was also having technical discussions on the subject.

The G7 countries had agreed in September to cap the price of oil, scheduled to start in early December, in a move they say is an effort to curb Russian President Vladimir Putin replenishing his war chest.

The Minister said he did not know how the OPEC+ supply cut was going to impact proposals around oil made prior to the announcement.

'God sent me to destroy the descendants of Kansa'

The Hindu Bureau
AHMEDABAD

Posters of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal wearing a skull cap, coupled with the "anti-Hindu" label, marked the beginning of the politician's two-day campaign visit to Gujarat on Saturday.

Mr. Kejriwal said, "These people put up posters and hoardings against me after learning that I am coming. They can say anything against me but why insult our Gods with such messages."

Calling himself a "devotee of Lord Hanuman," the Delhi CM reminded that he was born on Janmashthmi (Lord Krishna's birth day) as the God had sent him to destroy the lumpen goons and descendants of Kansa.

CJI Lalit sets a frenetic pace in Supreme Court

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India U.U. Lalit's days as top judge supports the argument in favour of short, meaningful tenures for Chief Justices of India. His 74-day tenure, which would end on November 8, has so far shown that it is the quality of time that matters.

Within a month of Justice Lalit taking office as CJI on August 27, five Constitution Benches were formed. The CJI has propelled sweeping administrative changes, especially transparent and prompt listing of cases. September saw the court divide its judicial time between long-pending regular cases and public interest petitions. The month-end has seen a drop in backlog.

But the frenetic pace of daily work – 60 to 70 cases listed before every Bench – has raised questions whether judges are able to cope with the work pressure. A Bench led by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud sat till 9.15 p.m. recently to finish its board of cases for the day. Lawyers have been seen seeking more time to prepare their briefs as their cases were listed suddenly. Recent days have also seen a difference of opinion within the Collegium.

Chief Justice Lalit had promised that there would be at least one Constitution Bench presiding in court every day. The court's formation of Constitution Benches had almost come to a stop during the pandemic days.

CJI U.U. Lalit

September saw the first five senior-most judges of the court preside over Constitution Benches. One Constitution Bench led by Justice Indira Banerjee delivered a judgment while verdicts were reserved in other Constitution Bench cases.

The Constitution Benches have taken up sensitive issues such as the legality of the Citizenship Amendment Act, increasing the compensation to Bhopal gas tragedy victims, validity of the demonetisation policy, the constitutionality of the economically weaker sections quota, protection of Jallikattu as a cultural right, the Maharashtra political crisis, the dispute between the Delhi government and the Lieutenant Governor over the control of the civil services in the capital, the declaration of Muslims as a socially and educationally backward community, the setting up of regional Benches of the Supreme Court, a challenge to polygamy and the Bohra community's right to excommunicate dissidents, among others.

There has been a visible decline in pendency from 70,310 cases as on September 1 to 69,461 cases on October 1. The number of pending Constitution Bench cases have thinned from 493 on September 1 to 488 on October 1.

Major decisions are taken now in the Supreme Court after Full Court meetings, where all the judges get an opportunity to voice their opinion. One of the significant decisions taken during a Full Court meeting has been the live-streaming of Constitution Bench hearings.

Chief Justice Lalit has ensured that all 15 Benches of the court hear cases.

The Lalit Collegium's recommendation of the elevation of Bombay High Court Chief Justice Dipankar Datta as Supreme Court judge is as per the seniority norm.

Rijiju slams AAP over conversion controversy

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju expressed his "perplexity" at the AAP and its leadership's "hatred" of Hindus and Hindutva after a video clip purportedly showing Delhi Social Welfare Minister Rajendra Pal Gautam at an event where hundreds took a pledge to convert to Buddhism while denouncing Hindu deities went viral.

In a series of tweets, Mr. Rijiju said, "I really don't understand the reason as to why Arvind Kejriwal and his gang hate Hindu and Hindutva." "I can understand about Rahul Gandhi but Kejriwal....," he added.

Gehlot defends Adani welcome; no wrong, says Rahul

Mohammed Iqbal
JAIPUR

> Gehlot says Adani has committed to an investment of ₹60,000 crore. No Chief Minister can refuse it. It would be wrong to refuse investment
>
> **RAHUL GANDHI**
> Former Congress chief

After facing criticism over hosting industrialist Gautam Adani at the Invest Rajasthan Summit 2022, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Saturday said he would welcome any business tycoon bringing investments to the State and generating employment.

Mr. Gehlot, feeling the heat after his supporters stalled a Congress Legislature Party meeting recently, had deployed a mix of defiance and deference by rolling out the red carpet for Mr. Adani, often at the receiving end of former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi's criticism, on Friday. He had named a flyover a day earlier marking Mr. Gandhi's ongoing Bharat Jodo Yatra.

As the Opposition latched on to his perceived defiance, the Chief Minister told reporters that the summit was not a private event and the 3,000 delegates who attended it could have any political leanings.

Mr. Gandhi clarified at a press conference on the sidelines of the Bharat Jodo Yatra in Karnataka's Tumakuru district on Saturday that he was only opposed to the use of political power to help certain chosen businesses which could monopolise others. He said Mr. Adani has committed to an investment of ₹60,000 crore in Rajasthan.

"No Chief Minister can refuse it. It would be wrong to refuse investment," he said.

Neither faction can use Sena name, symbol for now: EC

The poll panel's decision was not a surprise, say loyalists; both camps line up their pick for party symbols and are ready with alternatives for names with which to contest the upcoming byelection

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Face to face: Eknath Shinde (left) and Uddhav Thackeray during a press conference in Mumbai. FILE PHOTO

The Election Commission on Saturday decided that the two factions of the Shiv Sena, led by Uddhav Thackeray and Eknath Shinde, respectively, would not be allowed to use the party name and symbol for the Andheri East byelection and till it passed a final order on the dispute between them.

In an interim order, the EC said both groups would be known by different names of their choosing and would be allotted alternative symbols from the list of free symbols notified by the EC for the current byelection. The two sides were asked to submit the alternative names and symbols to the EC by 1 p.m. on Monday.

Hearing the dispute between the two sides on who represents the 'real' Shiv Sena, the EC said there was an urgency to the matter as the byelection had been announced. The nominations for the byelection started on Friday and will go on till October 14. "It is evident that the time available is not adequate to ensure the due process which is required to be completed for the proceedings," the EC said, adding that it was passing the interim order to keep both sides on an even keel for the byelection. Anticipating such an order from the poll panel, both factions of the Shiv Sena are ready with alternative names with which to contest the Andheri (East) byelection. While Uddhav Thackeray group is keen on getting the mace (*gada*), they have also selected lion and elephant faces as options; the Shinde camp has selected the sword.

"We are not surprised by the poll panel's decision. This was expected," Uddhav loyalist and MLC Manisha Kayande told *The Hindu*.

She said he Shinde-Fadnavis group wanted to finish the 'real' Shiv Sena led by Mr. Uddhav Thackeray and was using strong-arm tactics. "But, one thing they must remember – for us, the symbol doesn't matter. Our faces and development work in the area is enough to get a landslide victory in the election," Ms. Kayande said.

Though the Shinde-led faction is likely to support the BJP candidate as part of their alliance, they submitted an application to the EC alleging that Uddhav Thackeray's camp may misuse the party symbol in the election when the issue was still pending with the poll body.

The Uddhav Thackeray camp will field deceased Sena MLA Ramesh Latke's wife Rutuja.

INBRIEF

Nothing in chargesheet against Lalu, says Nitish

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Thursday came forward to defend Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) chief Lalu Prasad and his family members after the CBI filed a chargesheet against them and others in the land-for-job scam. "I've seen everything. There is nothing in the case. It happened only because we have (JD-U and RJD) come together again. What happened five years ago, they found nothing but they do whatever they feel like, what can we do," said Mr. Kumar when presspersons asked him about the chargesheet in the scam that took place when Mr. Prasad was Railway Minister. Mr. Prasad, his wife Rabri Devi and their daughter Misa Bharti and 13 others have been named accused in the chargesheet.

KCR is guided by *tantriks*, says Nirmala Sitharaman

Reaction to the formation of the Bharata Rashtra Samithi (BRS) by Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao on Dasara, replacing the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS), Union Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said he was guided by *tantriks* and soothsayers. She further said that when the State was formed, Mr. Rao had talked about women empowerment "but for four years from 2014 to 2018, there was not a single woman Minister in the TRS government". "Even after re-election, for almost a year, there was no woman Minister. Under KCR rule, the State has become revenue deficit from being revenue surplus, Ms. Sitharaman said adding the State has borrowings of ₹3 lakh crore with debt-to-State GDP ratio touching 25%.

Petition seeks stay on release of the film *Adipurush*

The Tis Hazari Court in Delhi will hear a plea for a stay on the release of the film *Adipurush* starring Prabhas and Saif Ali Khan. The petition filed by a Delhi-based lawyer, Raj Gaurav, said the producers of the movie, the defendants in the case, have hurt the religious sentiments of the plaintiff and other Hindus by depicting Lord Ram and Hanuman in a very unwarranted and inaccurate way in the promo of the movie. The plea maintained that the defendant cannot manipulate the basics of the Ramayana in the garb of free speech and freedom of expression. Also, if the defendants are not stopped from propagating hate towards Hindus, it might lead to a furore and uprising among the public at large and may also cause law and order situation in the country.

J&K parties form panel to oppose move to add voters

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

A 14-member transregional grouping has been constituted in J&K to oppose any move to allow outsiders to cast vote in elections in the Union Territory (UT).

The grouping has members from both the Kashmir and Jammu regions. The senior members of the grouping included National Conference MP Hasnain Masoodi, former MP Mehboob Beg and former Minister Chowdhary Lal Singh.

The move follows the Chief Electoral Officer's disclosure that 25 lakh more voters will be enlisted in J&K ahead of the polls.

Post split with Janata Dal(U), BJP trying to configure its leadership strategy in Bihar

NEWS ANALYSIS

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

Poll strategy: BJP president J.P. Nadda and Union Home Minister Amit Shah during a press conference. FILE PHOTO

With the Janata Dal(U) walking out of the National Democratic Alliance, the BJP has to consider not just projecting a chief ministerial face for the 2025 Assembly election in Bihar but also undertake a search for a new State unit chief, preferably belonging to the Extremely Backward Classes (EBC).

Union Home Minister Amit Shah's disclosure in Bihar a couple of weeks ago that the BJP would be projecting a chief ministerial candidate was the first signal that the party was thinking deep and hard on just how to counter the formidable alliance of the Janata Dal(U) and the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and its caste arithmetic.

"Right off the bat, you must understand that any candidate, either for Chief Minister or the State unit president [soon to be appointed], will not be an upper caste," a senior Bihar BJP leader said.

The first order of business for the national leadership is appointing a new State president. Sources in the party say that Pradeep Singh, Araria MP, and Ajay Nishad, Muzzaffarpur MP and son of Jainarayan Nishad, have been called to Delhi and have been here for the past three days.

"Both these MPs belong to the EBCs, a section, after aligning first with the RJD and then shifting to the JD (U) under Nitish Kumar, that has also given the BJP support after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's advent on the scene. Unlike in U.P., the BJP in Bihar is still very much perceived as a party of the upper castes, which is its solid support base. By appointing an EBC State president, the BJP will be signalling that the community need not align with the JD(U)-RJD alliance," said a source.

As far as chief ministerial faces are concerned, pending any other State-level leader (non upper caste) emerging on the scene, Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai and Leader of the Opposition in the Bihar Legislative Council Samrat Chaudhary are the top claimants.

Apart from the leadership issues, Mr. Shah's visit to Bihar was important in other ways too. He asked each of the party MPs, MLAs and MLCs in the State to adopt two Assembly constituencies and help set up booth committees for each of the polling booths there.

Mr. Shah promised that he would be visiting Bihar at least once a month here on.

Fr. Stan Swamy's human rights were violated, says Tharoor

Sonam Saigal
MUMBAI

Father Stan Swami

"The tragedy of Father Stan Swamy is his human rights were violated while all he was attempting to do was protect the human rights of Adivasis suffering from poverty and neglect," senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor said on Saturday.

The MP for Thiruvananthapuram was talking at the Father Stan Swamy Memorial Lecture on, 'Are human rights universal?'

Two years ago, on October 8, the late Father Stan Swamy, a Jesuit priest and tribal rights activist, was arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) from his home in Ranchi, under several Sections of the IPC and Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) in the Bhima Koregaon caste violence case.

He died on July 5, 2021 at a private hospital's COVID-19 intensive care unit.

Mr. Tharoor said Father Stan's death had brought the world's attention to his work and commitment, adding that there were trends observed of assaults on human rights and xenophobia all over the world.

Former Indian Forest Service officer held in recruitment scam

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In a major crackdown on officials involved in the Uttarakhand Subordinate Service Selection Commission (UKSSC) recruitment scam, the SIT on Saturday arrested a retired Indian Forest Service officer R.B.S. Rawat, Joint Secretary Manohar Kanyal and another senior officer from the State rural services, R.S. Pokhariyal.

According to the sources, R.B.S. Rawat was the then chairman of the UKSSC when the scam was reported.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)
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NO: 02-DYCE-CN-IV-MDU-2022-OT
For and on behalf of the president of India. The Deputy Chief Engineer, Construction, IV, Southern Railway, Arasaradi, Madurai - 624 016 invites e-tender for the work as per Notice inviting Tender (NIT) in our portal **www.ireps.gov.in** The tenderers/ Contractors intending to apply for the tender needs to get enrolled in the portal **www.ireps.gov.in** and only online tenders will be accepted.
NAME OF WORK: Proposed New BG Line between Rameswaram and Dhanushkodi – Proposed Construction of Camp Office at Rameswaram.
Approximate Cash Value in Rupees: 2,25,77,389.93
Earnest Money Deposit (Rupees): 2,62,900.00/-
Period of Completion in Month(s): Six
Closing / Opening Date @: 21.10.2022 at 11.00 Hrs.
For further details refer to web site portal **www.ireps.gov.in** or contact office of Deputy Chief Engineer Construction, IV, Arasaradi, Madurai – 625 016.
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NOTICE NO.11/2022
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Sl No	E-Auction conducted by	Date of auction for the month of November 2022			Meterials for auction
1	GSD/PER	07.11.2022	15.11.2022	22.11.2022	The details of item to be sold in e-auction will be available in catalogue in website www.ireps.gov.in
2	CSSD/GOC	01.11.2022	09.11.2022	17.11.2022	
3	SSD/PTJ	01.11.2022	09.11.2022	17.11.2022	
4	MAS Division	03.11.2022	10.11.2022	18.11.2022	
5	SA Division	03.11.2022	10.11.2022	18.11.2022	
6	TVC Division	08.11.2022	16.11.2022	23.11.2022	
7	PGT Division	08.11.2022	16.11.2022	23.11.2022	
8	TPJ Division	04.11.2022	14.11.2022	21.11.2022	
9	MDU Division	04.11.2022	14.11.2022	21.11.2022	

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INBRIEF

Immersion carnival marks end of Durga Puja in Kolkata

The West Bengal government on Saturday organised a grand Durga Puja immersion carnival on Red Road in Kolkata in which nearly 100 big-ticket community Puja committees participated. The carnival was held after a two-year pandemic-induced break. The event started with a performance by the 'Daredevil' force of the Kolkata Police displaying acrobatics on motorcycles. From Red Road, the Durga Puja idols were taken for immersion to different ghats of the Hooghly river. With the Idol Immersion Carnival, the Durga Puja festival concluded in Kolkata.

Fadnavis slams Rahul Gandhi for remark on Savarkar

Lashing out at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for his alleged comments on freedom fighter Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Saturday came down heavily questioning the temerity of the former who often holds Savarkar in low esteem. Mr. Gandhi said the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh had assisted the British, who had been paying a stipend to Savarkar. "...BJP was nowhere to be found in the Freedom Struggle. It can't hide such facts. Congress and its leaders fought for freedom," he said.

Heroin seized off Gujarat, six suspected Pakistanis arrested

Gujarat's Anti Terrorist Squad (ATS), in a mid-sea joint operation with the Coast Guard (ICG), caught a Pakistani boat and recovered 50 kg of heroin estimated at ₹350 crore in international market and apprehended six crew members suspected to be Pakistani nationals, an official said on Saturday. The boat was intercepted close to the International Maritime Boundary Line, off the Gujarat coast. "There was a specific input our team had received about the cargo being loaded from Karachi and was destined for delivery in Gujarat," Gujarat DGP Ashish Bhatia said.

Wild tiger that took the lives of nine people in Bihar killed

The tiger, which had claimed nine lives in the past 26 days in West Champaran district of Bihar, was shot dead on Saturday by a team of sharp shooters and forest officials. A shoot-at-sight order had been issued against the tiger on October 7 by the National Tiger Conservation Authority and the State's Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest-cum-Wildlife Warden after the villagers around the Valmiki Tiger Reserve in the district started protesting against the forest officials over the wild cat on the prowl.

SUDOKU

	3			4	9		5	1
1		5	6				3	
7					5		1	2
	5			3			6	
4	2		7					5
	9				3	5		6
5	4		2	9			7	

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

9	6	4	2	1	3	5	7	8
1	8	7	9	4	5	6	3	2
5	3	2	7	8	6	9	1	4
6	9	5	4	2	7	1	8	3
3	7	1	6	9	8	4	2	5
4	2	8	5	3	1	7	9	6
7	4	9	8	5	2	3	6	1
8	5	3	1	6	9	2	4	7
2	1	6	3	7	4	8	5	9

As prisons overflow, BSF lets migrants with clean record return to Bangladesh

Data from the security force reveal that till October 5 this year, 287 persons were handed over to Border Guard Bangladesh; authorities, however, insist that only those who are not involved in smuggling of narcotics, fake currency, and other prohibited articles, are allowed to return

SPECIAL

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA/NORTH 24 PARGANAS

At the forefront: BSF personnel guarding a narrow waterbody that serves as international border at Hakimpur village under Swarupnagar police station in North 24 Parganas.

On the midnight of September 23, Sabana Begum (40) and Rehana Khatoon (30) were intercepted by the Border Security Force (BSF) near the border outpost of Jeetpur in North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal while illegally crossing the International Border from India to Bangladesh. Upon interrogation, they said that they had come to India six months ago, had been working in Bengaluru, and were heading back home.

On September 28, as many as four Bangladeshi nationals were intercepted near the border outposts of Jeetpur and Ranghat in the district. They said they had come to India some time ago in search of work and were returning to Bangladesh after visiting various cities.

If normal procedure were followed, all six would have been handed over to the police to be lodged in jail for several years for illegally crossing the border. They would have added to the number of foreigners sent to West Bengal's correctional homes. But this time, the BSF authorities arranged meetings with their counterparts in Bangladesh, the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), and handed them over to the Bangladeshi authorities.

With overcrowding of prisons turning out to be a major challenge for security agencies, in several cases, the BSF is not arresting those crossing the border but handing them over to the BGB, often described as a "gesture of humanity and goodwill".

Data from the South Bengal Frontier of the BSF reveal that in 2022, till October 5, the wing returned 287 persons, including 146 men, 102 women, 38 children and one transgender person.

BSF authorities, however, insist that only those who are not involved in the smuggling of narcotics, cough syrup, fake currency, gold and other prohibited articles are handed over to the BGB.

Many cross the border looking for work and return home after working in India. Some of them try to sneak in to meet relatives or to get treatment, and in some cases, it's children who have run away from their homes.

What the stats show

A recent report on Prison Statistics of India (PSI), 2021 shows that of the 5,565 foreign inmates lodged in the country's correctional homes, West Bengal alone accounts for 1,746 (31%). The State has reported the highest number of foreign convicts lodged in its jails (30.5% or 329 persons) and the highest number of foreign undertrials (28.4% or 1,179 persons).

The report says among the foreign inmates, Bangladeshi nationals make up the majority – 40.5% – of all foreign inmates. It shows that a majority of the foreign nationals were arrested for crossing the border illegally.

Thousands of persons are apprehended every year for illegally crossing the border along the BSF's South Bengal Frontier. This wing guards a stretch of 913.324 km along the India-Bangladesh border, from Sunderbans in the south to Malda in the north, and is the most porous stretch of India's borders in the entire eastern theatre.

More than 40% of the border – over 360 km – is riverine, where rivers serve as boundaries between the two countries. Security agencies managing the border describe it as the most complex region with a high density of populations residing on either side of the border in close proximity, with significant ethnic and cultural similarities.

Delay in deportation

In 2021, the South Bengal Frontier arrested 2,036 Bangladeshis and 860 Indians for illegally crossing the border.

Contrary to the public perception, more arrests are made while Bangladeshi nationals are crossing over from India to Bangladesh than in the opposite direction.

According to officials of the State's Correctional Homes, other than the convicts and undertrials, there are many Bangladeshi nationals who have completed their term and are still languishing in the prisons. This is because deportation of such prisoners often referred to as "Jaan Khalash (having completed the prison term)" in the prison records is a lengthy process involving both the countries.

The prison occupancy rate in West Bengal as per the PSI stands at 120. Occupancy rate is defined as the number of inmates staying in jails the authorised capacity for 100 inmates.

German call for UN role in J&K is injustice to terror victims: India

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

> The role and responsibility of any serious and conscientious member of the global community is to call out international, cross-border terrorism
>
> **ARINDAM BAGCHI**
> External Affairs Ministry spokesperson

The government took strong objection to German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock's call for the "engagement of the United Nations" in solving the Kashmir dispute in response to a question during a joint press conference with Pakistan Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto in Bonn on Friday. The External Affairs Ministry called such comments a "grave injustice" to victims of terrorism.

In her remarks, Ms. Baerbock said Germany supported a UN role in resolving the Kashmir dispute, praised the Line of Control ceasefire agreement of February 2021, and called for a "political dialogue" between India and Pakistan.

"Germany has a role and responsibility with regard to the situation of Kashmir. Therefore, we support intensively the engagement of the United Nations to find peaceful solutions in the region," Ms. Baerbock said after bilateral talks with Mr. Bhutto. "There are tensions as [Mr. Bhutto] described, so we encourage Pakistan and we encourage India to follow the track of the ceasefire, to follow the track of the United Nations, and to intensify the political dialogue, and also the political and practical cooperation in the region," she added.

Reacting sharply to the wording of Ms. Baerbock's comments, Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi on Saturday said the "role and responsibility" of any "serious and conscientious member of the global community" was to call out international, cross-border terrorism.

"The Indian Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has borne the brunt of such a terrorist campaign for decades. This continues till now," Mr. Bagchi said referring to the unfinished prosecution of Pakistan-based terrorists involved in the Mumbai 26/11 attacks. "When states do not recognise such dangers, either because of self-interest or indifference, they undermine the cause of peace, not promote it. They also do grave injustice to the victims of terrorism," he added.

Agreeing with Ms. Baerbock on the UN role, Mr. Bhutto said peace in South Asia was not possible without the "peaceful resolution of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute, in accordance with the UN resolutions, in accordance with international law", and even sought to draw a parallel between "unilateral actions in Ukraine" and "unilateral actions in Kashmir", in reference to the government's August 2019 reorganisation of the State.

The comments came a day after a speech by Home Minister Amit Shah in Baramulla in Kashmir, where he ruled out a dialogue process with Pakistan, saying the Modi government would not talk to Pakistan but to "the people of Kashmir" only.

Earlier this week, New Delhi conveyed objections to Washington over the visit of the U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan to Muzaffarabad, and the U.S.'s reference to the area under Pakistani occupation as "Azad Jammu Kashmir", indicating concern within the government about global references to the Kashmir dispute.

Muslim federation to reserve seats for women on its panel

Ziya Us Salam
NEW DELHI

In the referendum, over 81 per cent of the members voted in favour of quota for women

In a development likely to have far-reaching implications for leading Muslim organisations in the country, the All India Muslim Majlis-e-Mushawarat has announced plans to reserve two seats each for women and Pasmanda community representatives to the body's 25-member national executive. Besides, plans have been announced to bring on board four members from southern States and one representative of northeast.

The Mushawarat is the umbrella body of 12 Muslim organisations, including the Muslim League, Jamaat-e-Islami Hind, Indian National League and Jamiat Ahl-e-Hadith. The changes have been brought in with select amendments to its constitution, brought in through a referendum via a postal ballot.

"The moment the amended constitution got the consent of the members, it was considered passed," says Navaid Hamid, president, AIMMM. Over 81% of the members voted in favour of reservation for women through a referendum, while nearly 74% voted in favour of Pasmanda reservation.

Three leading organisations, notably, Jamaat-e-Islami Hind, its student wing SIO, and Indian National League boycotted the deliberations. It was argued that Mr. Hamid is a caretaker president not authorised to bring in far-reaching changes to the constitution.

Clean swipe for MGNREGS attendance app only in 8 States

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Five months after the Union government's order making it mandatory to record attendance of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) workers through a government mobile application, National Mobile Monitoring System (NMMS), at work sites where 20 or more people are employed, at least three States – Tamil Nadu, Odisha and Assam – are pushing for making it universal, though a majority of the States still have concerns about it.

September data put out by the Union Rural Development Ministry show only eight States have recorded usage of the app at 90% or more worksites. They are Assam (93.42%), Odisha (92%), Tamil Nadu (93%), Karnataka (92%), Kerala (91.5%), Tripura (91%), Uttarakhand (91%) and Puducherry (99%). In Puducherry, though the usage is high, the number of worksites in September was just 774.

"We have listened to complaints and made several tweaks to make it easier for the end user. One big change is allowing offline use of the app. The mates can record the attendance even if there is no Internet connectivity and it will get uploaded whenever they reach a place which has the necessary signal strength," the official said. The official further added that based on complaints, the app and procedures were constantly evolving.

Digital presence: The app can be used offline, with the attendance getting recorded at places where the signal strength is high.

Many shortcomings

There are still a host of shortcomings for which the worker ends up paying the penalty. The data from the Ministry reveal that in nine States and Union Territories, the usage of the app is 50% or less. These States are Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Goa, Nagaland, Andaman and Nicobar and Jammu and Kashmir. In case of Goa and Nagaland, the usage is zero.

Andhra Pradesh, which has one of the largest MGNREGS workforce, used the NMMS app for recording attendance in September only in 21.48% of over 92,000 work sites. In August, this number was at 9.56%. In Uttar Pradesh, another State which receives a significant percentage of total MGNREGS national funds, in September, out of 1.3 lakh work sites, only in 50.19% the muster roll was filled via the app. The September numbers are marginally better than August's 48.31%.

In the States which have been reporting high usage too, many workers end up suffering wage loses due to technical glitches. Nikhil Shenoy, divisional secretary, Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan, Jodhpur, Rajasthan has an illustrative example. Rajasthan has reported an 86.75% rate of usage of the app. "We tallied the physical muster rolls with the digital one captured by the NMMS app for 14 gram panchayats in Dungerpur district of Rajasthan for the month of September. Our analysis shows that 302 labour days are missing from the attendance records in the app. It is well and good that the government wants to bring in more transparency via the app. Why should the workers have to pay the penalty. For them, loss of wages even for one day could be catastrophic," he said.

Another example is Bihar, where a sharp dip was reported in app usage from 75.15% in August to 54.26% in September.

JENIN

Two Palestinians shot dead during West Bank raid by Israeli troops

Two Palestinians were shot dead in the occupied West Bank city of Jenin on Saturday, the Palestinian Health Ministry said, as Israeli troops carried out an arrest operation. Eleven others were wounded, three of them seriously. It comes after two reporters were wounded on Wednesday while covering a military operation. AP

CREESLOUGH

Ten persons killed, eight injured in blast at Ireland petrol station

Ten persons, including two teenagers and a younger girl, were killed in an explosion at a petrol station in the Irish county of Donegal, the police said on Saturday, adding that the incident appeared to be "a tragic accident". The blast ripped through a petrol station forecourt and a nearby apartment complex. AFP

LONDON

Train commuters in U.K. hit by further strikes over remuneration

Train passengers in Britain faced disruption on Saturday, with only one in five services running as railway workers staged another walkout over wages. About 40,000 members of the Rail, Maritime and Transport (RMT) union and 15 train operating companies took action demanding higher pay and better working conditions. AFP

NA KLANG

Thailand King visits kin of nursery shooting victims in hospital

Thailand's King Maha Vajiralongkorn and Queen Suthida visited the injured and relatives at a hospital on Friday, a day after an ex-policeman murdered 24 children and 12 adults on a three-hour gun and knife rampage in a nursery. Prime Minister Prayut Chan-O-Cha handed out compensation cheques to families. REUTERS

China defends policy on Xinjiang, asserts it's not about rights

New Delhi had on Friday called for human rights of Uighurs to be 'respected', after abstaining from a UN Human Rights Council vote

Ananth Krishnan
BEIJING

China on Saturday defended its policies in Xinjiang and said issues there were "not related to human rights", a day after India called for the human rights of the people of the region to be "respected and guaranteed".

India was among the countries that did not vote in favour of a West-led United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) draft resolution on Xinjiang that failed to pass this week.

Explaining why New Delhi abstained on the vote, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Friday cited India's long-held view that "country-specific resolutions are never helpful", but at the same time also called for "the human rights of the people of Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region [to] be respected and guaranteed."

"We hope that the relevant party will address the situation objectively and properly," MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said.

China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said Beijing had "noted" reports on India's abstention as well as the MEA's statement. "I want to stress that the issues related to Xinjiang are not related to human rights and are about countering violent terrorism, radicalisation, and separatism," Ms. Mao said. "Thanks to strenuous efforts, there was no violent terrorist incident in Xinjiang for over five consecutive years."

Curtailed freedom: Islamic studies students attending a class at an institute in Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region in China. REUTERS

Ms. Mao said the UNHRC vote in its favour had affirmed China's position. "The voting results at the UNHRC reflect the position of the international community, especially of developing countries, in firmly rejecting the politicisation of the human rights issues," she said.

Arbitrary detention

India said it had also taken note of concerns expressed by a recent report of the UN Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR), which said China's "arbitrary detention" of Uighurs may have constituted crimes against humanity.

Beijing slammed the report and blamed Western interference. China initially denied the mass detention of Uighurs in "re-education" camps, but later claimed the vast network of centres in Xinjiang were for "vocational training".

Five minors sentenced in security case in Hong Kong

Reuters
HONG KONG

Five teenagers with a Hong Kong group advocating independence from Chinese rule were ordered by a judge on Saturday to serve up to three years in detention at a correctional facility, for urging an "armed revolution" in a national security case.

The five, some of whom were minors aged between 15 and 18 at the time of the alleged offence, had pleaded guilty to "inciting others to subvert state power" through a group named "Returning Valiant".

Sentences for two more, aged 21 and 26, will be delivered at a later date.

Justice Kwok Wai-kin detailed how the defendants had advocated a "bloody revolution" to overthrow the Chinese state at street booths, and on Instagram and Facebook after adoption of a sweeping, China-imposed national security law.

Factoring age

Justice Kwok called the alleged incitement a serious crime but nevertheless took into account their "age and immaturity" as he sentenced them to a training centre, or detention facility for young people, rather than jail.

The length of stay, capped at three years, is left to correctional authorities to decide.

Russia names new General to lead Ukraine offensive after setbacks

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

Russia on Saturday appointed a new general to lead the Ukraine offensive after Moscow suffered a series of military setbacks that triggered criticism of the army's leadership.

The Russian Defence Ministry said General Sergey Surovikin had been appointed "commander of the Joint Grouping of Forces in the areas of the special military operation", using the Kremlin's term for the offensive.

Series of losses

The decision was announced after Moscow's forces were pushed back by Kyiv in recent weeks in areas the Kremlin had declared Russian "forever".

According to the Ministry's website, Surovikin is 55, born in Siberia's Novosibirsk.

He has combat experience in the 1990s conflicts in Tajikistan and Chechnya and, more recently, in Syria, where Moscow intervened in 2015 on the side of Bashar al-Assad's regime.

Change of guard: General Sergei Surovikin, left, has combat experience in conflicts in Tajikistan, Chechnya and in Syria. AP

Until now Surovikin led the "South" forces in Ukraine, according to a Defence Ministry report in July.

The name of his predecessor has never been officially revealed, but some Russian media said it was General Alexander Dvornikov – also a general of the Second Chechen War and Russian commander in Syria.

The decision – unusually made public by Moscow – comes after a series of crushing defeats suffered by the Russian army in Ukraine.

Territories ceded

Russian forces were driven out of much of the north-eastern Kharkiv region in early September by a Ukrainian counter-offensive that allowed Kyiv to retake thousands of square kilometres of territory.

Russian troops also lost territory in the southern Kherson region as well as the Lyman transport hub in eastern Ukraine.

The setbacks led to growing criticism of the military leadership, including from the elite.

Shooting outside school stadium in U.S. injures three

Associated Press
TOLEDO

The police in Ohio said three persons were wounded in a shooting outside a high school football game that sent people on the field and spectators in the stands running for cover.

Police said the shots were fired behind the Whitmer High School stadium in West Toledo at about 9:30 p.m. on Friday during the game with Central Catholic High School. A Whitmer student and two adults were wounded, said Washington Local Schools spokesperson Katie Peters, who called it "an act of violence."

An update on their conditions wasn't immediately available. *WTOL-TV* reported police saying two persons were taken into custody; no charges were immediately announced.

Dispatchers told responding police that witnesses reported two people in black ski masks firing shots and a vehicle then speeding away.

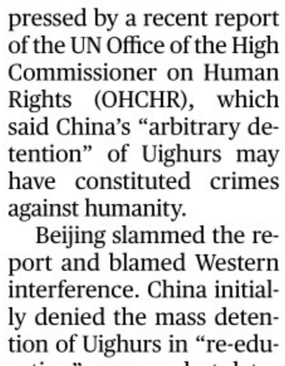
Ahead of retirement, Pakistan Army chief wants regional peace

Press Trust of India
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa on Saturday emphasised the need for regional peace and developing a mechanism for resolving all bilateral issues peacefully among countries as he warned that the "price of status quo will be devastating for all of us".

In what could possibly be his last address at the Pakistan Military Academy in Kakul as he is set to retire by the end of November, the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) said that the "world has changed, so should we as the price of status quo will be devastating for all of us." Without naming any country, the 61-year-old Pakistan Army chief stressed the need for regional peace and developing a mechanism for resolving all bilateral issues peacefully.

In his address, Gen. Bajwa said that "We are trying our best to break the political logjam which has denied the countries of South Asia to move forward and resolve all regional and bilateral issues."



Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa

The Army chief said that the people of South Asia, like the rest of the world, deserved prosperity and better living conditions, which was only possible through sustained economic growth, development and above all, lasting peace. "Therefore, we must strive hard to keep the flames of war away from the region," he said.

General Bajwa became chief of the army staff in November 2016 for a three-year tenure, which was extended for another term in 2019.

North Korea fires ballistic missile toward eastern sea

Associated Press
SEOUL

The South Korean military said North Korea fired a ballistic missile toward its eastern waters on Sunday, the latest in the country's barrage of weapons tests in recent days.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement the launch occurred on early Sunday but gave no further details, including how far the weapon may have flown.

The Japanese government also said North Korea fired what was a possible ballistic missile.

The Japanese coast guard said it has warned ships around the country's coasts about falling objects and urged them to stay away.

The launch, the North's sixth round of weapons tests in two weeks, came hours after the United States and South Korea wrapped a new round of naval drills off the Korean Peninsula's east coast. The drills involved a U.S. aircraft carrier.

Chandrayaan-2 gauges sodium content on Moon's surface

Shubashree Desikan

Scientists from Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) have mapped out the global distribution of sodium on the Moon's surface. They used the CLASS instrument (Chandrayaan-2 large area soft X-ray spectrometer) carried by the second Indian Moon mission, Chandrayaan-2.

This is the first effort to provide a global-scale measurement of sodium on the lunar surface using X-ray fluorescent spectra. The results have been published in a recent edition of *The Astrophysical Journal*.

A non-destructive way

X-ray fluorescence is commonly used to study the composition of materials in a non-destructive manner. When the sun gives out solar flares, a large amount of X-ray radiation falls on the moon, triggering X-ray fluorescence. The CLASS measures the energy of the X-ray photons coming from the moon and counts the total number. The energy of the photons indicates the atom (for instance, sodium atoms emit X-ray photons of 1.04 keV) and the intensity is a measure of how many atoms are present.

When compared to Earth, the moon is significantly depleted of volatile elements such as sodium. "The amount of volatiles on the moon today can be used to test formation scenarios of the Earth-Moon system. Sodium can be used as a tracer of the volatile history of the moon," explains the scientists from the Space Astronomy group of ISRO's U.R. Rao Satellite Centre.

New findings

Earlier moon missions, like Apollo-11, Luna and Chang'e-5, brought back rock samples. The amount of sodium in the rocks was precisely gauged. The new study by the Chandrayaan group shows that there is a thin veneer of sodium atoms that are weakly bound to the lunar surface apart from the minor quantities found in lunar rocks (as mentioned earlier).

These sodium atoms on the surface are liberated when enough energy is given to them by solar ultraviolet radiation and solar wind ions. The study shows a pattern in time that supports this, said the scientists.

Sodium is the only element apart from potassium that can be observed through telescopes in the lunar atmosphere (its exosphere). This new map of sodium would enable understanding of the surface-exosphere connection.

"As the solar cycle is in its ascending phase, we expect more solar flares that would ensure a larger coverage of all elements on the moon by CLASS at the highest spatial resolution ever," said the scientists.

Early warning for heatwaves sees huge improvement

India uses an end-to-end seamless prediction system to predict heatwaves in all time scales — short-range to seasonal. The seasonal forecast will tell the probability of frequency of heatwaves one season in advance

Madhavan Nair Rajeevan

A heatwave is a period of unusually hot weather with above normal temperatures that typically last three or more days. In India, heatwaves are generally experienced during March-June. On an average, two-three heatwave events are expected every season. Heatwaves are predominantly observed over two areas, central and northwest India and another over coastal Andhra Pradesh and Odisha, supported by favourable atmospheric conditions.

Total duration of heatwaves has increased by about three days during the last 30 years and a further increase of 12-18 days is expected by 2060. In future climate, heatwaves will be spread to new areas including southern parts of India. Climate change is causing heatwaves more frequently, and they are much stronger and can last for more days.

Caused fatalities

Heatwaves have multiple and cascading impact on human health, ecosystems, agriculture, energy, water and economy. The recent 2022 heatwave in India and Pakistan in March-April made devastating impacts. It is estimated to have led at least 90 deaths across India and Pakistan. It also triggered an extreme Glacial Lake Outburst Flood in northern Pakistan.

Adaptation to heatwaves can be effective to minimise the negative impacts, by developing a comprehensive heat response plan that includes early warnings, awareness rising and technology intervention. India has now a strong national framework for heat action plans involving the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the National and State disaster management authorities, and local bodies. Early warning systems are an integral part of this heat action plan.

How good is our early warning system for heatwaves? Research helped us to improve our understanding on the underlying mechanism of its genesis and intensity. Heatwaves are caused by large scale atmospheric circulation anomalies like high pressure areas, upper-tropospheric, jet streams, etc. The global forcing like the El Nino/Southern Oscillation (ENSO) and the Indian Ocean modulate the frequency and duration of Indian heatwaves. Heatwave can be further accentuated by local effects like depleted soil moisture and enhanced sensible heat flux.

Under the National Monsoon Mission, the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) had established an advanced prediction system for early warnings of heatwaves. IMD has the capability to predict the genesis, duration and intensity of heatwave events with reasonable accuracy up to four-five days in advance.

Can we then predict heatwaves two weeks in advance and what about a season in advance? A recent study published in the *Scientific Reports* by the scientists at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, has shown that heatwave genesis and duration in India can be predicted with good skill up to two weeks in advance.

They have used the hindcasts from the MoES Extended Range Prediction System (ERPS) that uses ensemble method combining four atmospheric general circulation models.

Improved prediction

In another recent study published in the *International Journal of Climatology* of the Royal Meteorological Society last month, scientists from IMD, IITM and MoES have documented for the first time that Indian heatwaves can be predicted even one season in advance. They used 37 years (1981-2017) of hindcasts from the Monsoon Mission Coupled Climate Forecast Model (MMCFS) to document that seasonal predictions of frequency and duration of Indian heatwaves during April-June are very useful.

The model could reproduce the spatial distribution of heatwave frequency and duration very well. The model also showed useful skill in predicting the characteristics of heatwaves for different months (April to June) separately. The model skill in predicting heatwaves arises due to its fidelity in reproducing the impacts of ENSO and the Indian Ocean on atmospheric circulation anomalies over the Indian region.

Thus, we have an end-to-end seamless prediction system to predict heatwaves in all time scales, from short-range to seasonal. The seasonal forecast will provide an outlook or probability of frequency and duration of heatwaves, one season in advance. This early outlook can be further strengthened using the extended range (two weeks) and short range (four-five days) forecasts for more focused region-wise response strategies.

Seasonal forecasts should use a multi-model ensemble (MME) forecasting strategy. Short- range ensemble forecasts should use higher resolution global models, initialized with observed soil moisture data, which are available from microwave satellites and IMD's soil moisture network. We should then expect more advanced forecasting system for heatwaves in the near future.

This is just one example how good science can help the society.

(Madhavan Nair Rajeevan is a former Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Earth Sciences. He works at the National Centre for Earth Science Studies.)

Getting better at predicting heatwaves

On an average, two-three heatwave events are expected every season

- Heatwaves are predominantly observed over central and northwest India and another over coastal Andhra Pradesh and Odisha
- Heatwaves are caused by large scale atmospheric circulation anomalies like high pressure areas, upper-tropospheric jet streams, etc.
- The global forcing like the El Nino/ Southern Oscillation (ENSO) and the Indian Ocean modulate the frequency and duration of Indian heatwaves
- IMD has the capability to predict the genesis, duration and intensity of heatwave events with reasonable accuracy up to four-five days in advance
- IITM, Pune, has been able to predict heatwave genesis and duration up to two weeks in advance
- IMD, IITM and MoES have, for the first time, been able to predict heatwaves even one season in advance
- India has end-to-end seamless prediction system to predict heatwaves in all-time scales — from short-range to seasonal

Total duration of heatwaves has increased by about three days during the last 30 years.

Triple helix: G.N. Ramachandran, a deprived genius' story

Sarit K. Das

The city of Chennai has probably forgotten one of its greatest scientific luminaries. As we celebrate the birth centenary of G.N. Ramachandran on October 8, 2022, there appears to be very little enthusiasm to remember this giant of Indian Science. The story of this deprived genius, known as GNR among friends and students who went through painful illness in the last years of his life, needs to be told.

Gopalasamudram Narayana Ramachandran was born to G.R. Narayana Iyer, a Professor of Mathematics at Maharaja's College, Ernakulam. He stood first in the intermediate and B.Sc (Hons) Physics and was admitted to the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru to study electrical engineering. C.V. Raman was the director of IISc then. Raman discovered Ramachandran's talent and transferred him to the physics department because according to him, "he is too talented to be an electrical engineer". Ramachandran's M.Sc thesis "deserves at least two doctoral degrees", according to his examiner, another giant of Indian science, K.S. Krishnan. Subsequently, Ramachandran received his D.Sc. in just three years, in 1947.

Subsequently, Ramachandran went to the Cavendish Laboratory of Cambridge University where he received a second doctorate (PhD) in two years. Ramachandran returned to join IISc. The story of GNR will remain incomplete without Lakshmanaswamy Mudaliar, who was the Vice-Chancellor of Madras University then. He invited Raman to start a department of experimental physics. Raman in turn recommended Ramachandran describing him "as good as me if not better".

An ideal pairing

GNR and Mudaliar were an ideal combination of patron and genius. In 1952, Prof. J.D. Bernal came to Madras and advised GNR to work on collagen, the protein most of our body is made up of. It was the time when Crick and Watson's discovery of the structure of DNA was round the corner.

G.N. Ramachandran

Ramachandran and his scholar Gopinath Kartha proposed the structure of collagen in two years (1954), that the famous Linus Pauling or Crick could not have imagined. This was the famous "triple helix". Crick opposed their discovery and proposed a two-chain helix model.

Ramachandran and Kartha's papers were published in *Nature*, after a long delay because *Nature's* editor sent them to Crick for his opinion. If two scientists are competitors, it is customary not to show the work of one to the other. But the British editor was eager to help their 'national hero', Francis Crick, who published his model quickly.

However, history knows that GNR was correct and Crick's model was totally wrong. In 1968, Pauling came to Madras and declared: "Ramachandran and his colleagues described an amazing triple helix... I have a little regret in my mind as to why... I did not succeed in thinking like that."

A unique response

Ramachandran responded to Crick's criticism by developing a diagram called 'Ramachandran's plot', which shows the possible structure of all ong bio-molecules and he should have been remembered for this work alone.

However, the price he had to pay for this fight and unfair treatment of the powerful scientific lobby abroad was enormous. Ramachandran was diagnosed with schizophrenia. Dr. Mudaliar used to shield him but he retired. Then, GNR resigned and shifted to IISc. In 1977, he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of London. The International Union of Crystallography gave him the Ewald Award in 1999.

In the meantime, his illness increased. The side effects of long-term psychiatric treatment resulted in Parkinson's disease. Finally, on April 7, 2001, Ramachandran overcame all the sufferings and passed away. After his death, *The Hindu* wrote: "The Prize that missed the Master".

He did not 'miss' the Nobel Prize, but the Nobel Prize 'missed' a great scientist.

(Sarit K. Das is the V. Balakrishnan Chair Professor of IIT Madras and former Director of IIT, Ropar.)

SNAPSHOTS

Will the northern hemisphere see a COVID wave in winter?

Evidence is building that the northern hemisphere is on course for a surge of COVID-19 cases this autumn and winter. New immune-evading strains of the SARS-CoV-2 Omicron variant, behaviour changes and waning immunity mean that many countries could soon see large number of infections. There are now subtle but worrying signs that Omicron is evolving to produce new immunity-dodging variants. Some U.S. States are beginning to see an uptick in cases; similar uptick is seen in the U.K.

Spread of monkeypox to the wild can cause huge problems

With rising cases of monkeypox, scientists are worried about the virus becoming established in wild animals such as rodents, outside its usual range in West and Central Africa. In such a scenario, animal reservoirs could then transmit the virus back to people. This could pose huge problems as controlling it in wildlife would be difficult. Scientists say the best way to prevent the virus from spilling over into animals is to stop the spread between people.

Australia sets goal to prevent new wildlife extinctions

Australia's government has set the goal of preventing new extinctions of native wildlife, and conserving at least 30% of its land mass by 2030. More mammal species have gone extinct in Australia than on any other continent, and over 1,900 Australian species are listed as threatened. The government's 10-year threatened-species plan will prioritise the protection of 110 species. The commitment to zero extinction is commendable but there is still no clarity on how the plan will protect non-priority species.

Question Corner

Stressed humans

How accurately can dogs detect stressed humans?

The physiological processes associated with an acute psychological stress response produce changes in human breath and sweat that dogs can detect with an accuracy of 93.75%, according to a new study (*PLOS ONE*).

The researchers from Queen's Belfast University collected samples of breath and sweat from non-smokers who had not recently eaten or drank. Samples were collected both before and after a fast-paced arithmetic task, along with self-reported stress levels and objective physiological measures: heart rate (HR) and blood pressure (BP). Samples from 36 participants, who reported an increase in stress and experienced an increase in HR and BP because of the task, were shown to trained dogs within three hours of being collected.

As per the release, at testing, dogs were asked to find the participant's stress sample while the same person's relaxed sample was also in the line-up. Overall, dogs could detect and perform their alert behaviour on the sample taken during stress in 675 out of 720 trials, or 93.75% of the time.

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in

How is 'click chemistry' more energy efficient?

In what way are 2022's Nobel laureates for Chemistry changing the agricultural, pharmaceutical and biomedical fields?

Jacob Koshy

The story so far:

A trio of chemists, Carolyn Bertozzi, Morten Meldal and Barry Sharpless, are this year's Nobel laureates for Chemistry. They won it for pioneering 'click chemistry,' which underpins green chemistry.

What is click chemistry?

A big part of what chemists do is making new molecules, which is as much an art as it is science. The standard approach is to mimic nature. In the early 20th century, finding nitrogen in a form usable by plants, despite it being the most abundant element in the atmosphere, was one of the discoveries scientists were striving hard to achieve. German chemist, Fritz Haber cracked the code for ammonia, which combined nitrogen and hydrogen that plants could synthesise for nitrogen, and Carl Bosch figured out a way to produce it in massive amounts. The Haber-Bosch process is still the dominant way of producing cheap fertilizer and is at the heart of industrialised agriculture. However, this process is extremely energy intensive and polluting and the modern-day challenge is to therefore produce so-called 'green ammonia'. This principle extends to most synthetic chemicals – where scientists try to create a natural substance, in a way that is different from the usual method which is often circuitous and creates several unwanted toxic by-products.

Click chemistry is now used for making biomolecules that can track diseases and corresponding cell processes. Researchers have begun to make clickable antibodies to target a range of tumours.

Shortly after winning his first Nobel Prize in 2001, Sharpless began discussing ways to synthesise chemicals that were efficient and not wasteful. To be able to create new pharmaceuticals, Sharpless argued, chemists ought to be moving away from trying to make 'natural' molecules and creating new ones in simpler ways that did the job. As an example, he said, it was hard to coax carbon atoms – the building blocks of organic molecules – from different molecules to link to each other. Instead, why not take smaller molecules, which already have a complete carbon frame and link them using bridges of nitrogen atoms or oxygen atoms? Sure, it wouldn't be as elegantly constructed as the natural stuff but would be efficient, greener and useful. This Lego-block like approach to making new molecules is the essence of 'click chemistry.' The 'click' is from an analogy he drew from seatbelts clicking snugly into buckles.

How did click chemistry come into being?

For a chemical reaction to be called click chemistry, it has to occur in the presence of oxygen and in water, which is a cheap and environmentally friendly solvent. While Sharpless gave examples of existing reactions that were potentially 'click worthy', the actual breakthrough came in a Copenhagen laboratory.

This reaction – the copper catalysed azide-alkyne cycloaddition – has now become almost synonymous with click chemistry. Azides and alkynes are different chemical groups that don't combine naturally but can do so in the presence of copper ions. Meldal who was tinkering with some routine reactions in his Copenhagen laboratory, discovered that these two had combined to form a third kind of chemical structure called triazole. These are stable structures found in certain drugs and agricultural chemicals. Earlier attempts to make triazoles were inefficient and created undesirable by-products but copper changed the game. Sharpless and Meldal had independently discovered this out of the U.S. and Denmark respectively. Manufacturers can now add a clickable azide to a plastic or fibre and modify it to be able to conduct electricity or make them waterproof by adding an alkyne.

What is Bertozzi's contribution?

Click chemistry as envisaged by Meldal and Sharpless applies to the non-living world. However, Bertozzi began investigating glycans, which are complex carbohydrates that play an important role in many biological processes, such as when the immune system is activated. Bertozzi wanted to study a particular kind of glycan that attached itself to the lymph nodes but the problem was tracking its presence in the body. She figured out a way, again using an azide, to attach a fluorescent molecule onto sialic acid – a constituent of glycans. However, since copper is toxic to cells, Bertozzi used click chemistry to make a product that avoided it, paving the way for making biomolecules that can be used to track diseases and corresponding cell processes.

Researchers have now begun to make clickable antibodies to target a range of tumours. Once the antibodies attach to the tumour, a second molecule that clicks to the antibody is injected which can monitor its growth or even deliver a dose of radiation.

What lies at the heart of the Physics Nobel?

How will the three laureates' groundbreaking experiments using entangled photons clear the way for new technology based on quantum information? What are the applications in the world of computers, crypted communication and secure networks?

Shubashree Desikan

The story so far:

On October 4, the Nobel Committee of The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences announced the names of three physicists as the laureates for the Nobel Prize in physics. They are Alain Aspect from the University of Paris-Saclay, France; John F. Clauser of John F. Clauser and Associates, California, U.S.; and Anton Zeilinger, University of Vienna, Austria. They have been awarded "for experiments with entangled photons, establishing the violation of Bell inequalities and pioneering quantum information science," according to a press release given out by the Academy of Sciences, which is based in Stockholm, Sweden.

Why were these three physicists chosen for the award?

The prize has been given for experimental work in quantum entanglement, which Einstein referred to as 'spooky action at a distance'. John Clauser and Alain Aspect firmed up this concept, developing more and more complex experiments that demonstrated and established that entanglement was indeed a true characteristic of quantum mechanics. They did this by creating, processing and measuring what are called Bell pairs. Anton Zeilinger innovatively used entanglement and Bell pairs, both in research and in applications. These include quantum computation and quantum cryptography.

Why is the word quantum so important here?

Classical mechanics is the study of the dynamics of a system which uses Newton's laws of motion at the very basic level. The dynamics of a few bodies or particles interacting with each other can be described using classical mechanics itself. This can be extended to many particle systems, such as a box containing millions of molecules of a gas, by employing the powerful technique of statistics, leading to statistical mechanics.

The work of the three laureates can help in developing quantum technologies of the future, for example, quantum computation

The success of Newton's laws, classical mechanics, and classical statistical mechanics is not to be sneezed at. From describing a tennis match to sending a rocket to Mars this encompasses a whole lot of everyday activities. However, this approach breaks down when one wishes to describe subatomic particles such as light quanta.

To understand these problems that could not be explained using classical mechanics, postulates of quantum mechanics were invoked. Some of the chief architects of this were Max Planck, Albert Einstein, Erwin Schrodinger, Werner Heisenberg and Niels Bohr.

What is at the centre of the quantum revolution?

Many of the concepts that were useful in visualising the movement of particles in the classical realm break down when applied to particles obeying quantum mechanics. For example, when a tennis ball is struck, we see that it traces out a definite path in space. The path it traces out is called a trajectory, and it is eminently possible to theoretically calculate the trajectory to any given accuracy. Simultaneously, there is no restriction on measuring the speed, or momentum of the ball at every point on the trajectory. Particles that fall into the quantum regime on the other hand – electrons or photons, for example – do not even possess a definite trajectory because they are not little hard spheres that we initially imagined them to be, but are weird, wavelike quantum objects. Because of this, there is a limit to how precisely you can measure the position and momentum of these particles simultaneously. Many differences arise, starting from this fundamental difference.

One important difference in the behaviour of quantum systems, when compared to classical bodies, is the concept of entanglement, which is at the heart of this year's Nobel Prize for physics.

What is the practical use of quantum mechanics?

Electronic devices that we employ today use transistors that apply quantum mechanical ideas. Lasers have been built that apply the quantum properties of light.

What is quantum entanglement? Does it have a classical counterpart?

Quantum entanglement is a phenomenon by which a pair of particles, say photons, is allowed to exist in a shared state where they have complementary properties, such that by measuring the properties of one particle, you automatically know the properties of the other particle. This is true however far apart the two particles are, provided the entanglement is not broken.

There is a trivial example of this from the classical domain. Take two coloured balls, one black and one white, and put them in identical boxes so that no one other than you know which box contains the black ball. One of the boxes is sent to Vienna and the other to Madurai. Just by opening the box they have received, the person in Vienna (or Madurai) can know not only the colour of the ball they have received but also that of the one in Madurai (or Vienna). This is a classical example and is somewhat trivial because nothing more can be made of it.

If the ball obeys quantum mechanics, its colour is not known to the observer until he or she makes an observation. So, until the box is opened, the state of the ball inside is a superposition of black and white states. Like the absence of a well-defined trajectory described earlier, this is one of the features of quantum mechanics. If the two balls occupy a shared state to start with, which is possible in quantum mechanics, however far the two may be transported, because of entanglement, opening one box can tell the user what the other ball's colour is. Until one box is opened, the two balls exist in a superposition of colours.

But how is it possible to know that each ball did not have a set colour at the beginning? Was there a 'hidden variable' that instructed each ball which colour to take when the box was opened?

This is where the theory of Bell's inequalities come in. Bell's inequalities are theoretical insights that make it possible to differentiate between two scenarios. One, that the indeterminacy of the colour of the balls is purely a quantum phenomenon, and the other, that there are hidden variables that determine the colour when opened.

What was the work done by the laureates?

John Clauser and Alain Aspect devised sophisticated experiments to test the above cases and establish through Bell's inequality, that entanglement was indeed a consequence of quantum physics. The third laureate Anton Zeilinger and his group used the phenomenon of entanglement to perform what is called quantum teleportation. This is a way of conveying information from one place to another without the actual transport of material.

Where does the work find use in practical applications?

The work of the three laureates can help in developing quantum technologies of the future, for example, quantum cryptography, and precise timekeeping as is done in atomic clocks.

From left to right: Recipients of the Nobel Prize for Physics, Alain Aspect, Anton Zeilinger and John Clauser. AFP

Does palaeogenomics explain our origins?

Why is this year's Nobel Prize for Medicine important for the study of human evolution? How did Svante Pääbo pioneer a method to analyse ancient DNA sans contamination? What is the physiological relevance of knowing the ancient flow of genes to present-day humans?

Jacob Koshy

The story so far:

The Nobel Prize for Physiology this year has been awarded to Svante Pääbo, Swedish geneticist, who pioneered the field of palaeogenomics, or the study of ancient hominins by extracting their DNA.

What is the significance of Pääbo's work?

Pääbo is the Director of the Max Planck Institute of Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany and has, over three decades, uniquely threaded three scientific disciplines: palaeontology, genomics and evolution. The study of ancient humans has historically been limited to analysing their bone and objects around them such as weapons, utensils, tools and dwellings. Pääbo pioneered the use of DNA, the genetic blueprint present in all life, to examine questions about the relatedness of various ancient human species. He proved that Neanderthals, a cousin of the human species that evolved 1,00,000 years before humans, interbred with people and a fraction of their genes – about 1-4% – live on in those of European and Asian ancestry. Later on, Pääbo's lab, after analysing a 40,000-year-old finger bone from a Siberian cave, proved that it belonged to a new species of hominin called Denisova. This was the first time that a new species had been discovered based on DNA analysis and this species too had lived and interbred with humans.

Genome-wide association studies have found that Neanderthal DNA may be linked with autoimmune diseases, type 2 diabetes, and prostate cancer

How can DNA be extracted from fossils?

The challenge with extracting DNA from fossils is that it degrades fairly quickly and there is little usable material. Because such bones may have passed through several hands, the chances of it being contaminated by human as well as other bacterial DNA get higher. This has been one of the major stumbling blocks to analysing DNA from fossils. One of Pääbo's early forays was extracting DNA from a 2,500-year-old Egyptian mummy and while it caused a stir and helped his career, much later in life he said that the mummy-DNA was likely contaminated.

DNA is concentrated in two different compartments within the cell: the nucleus and mitochondria, the latter being the powerhouse of the cell. Nuclear DNA stores most of the genetic information, while the much smaller mitochondrial genome is present in thousands of copies and therefore more retrievable. In 1990, Pääbo, as a newly appointed Professor at the University of Munich, took the call to analyse DNA from Neanderthal mitochondria. With his techniques, Pääbo managed to sequence a region of mitochondrial DNA from a 40,000-year-old piece of bone. This was the first time a genome from an extinct human relative was pieced together. Subsequently, he managed to extract enough nuclear DNA from Neanderthal bones to publish the first Neanderthal genome sequence in 2010. This was significant considering that the first complete human genome was published only in 2003.

What has Pääbo's work shown?

Pääbo's most important contribution is demonstrating that ancient DNA can be reliably extracted, analysed and compared with that of other humans and primates to examine what parts of our DNA make one distinctly human or Neanderthal. Thanks to his work we know that Europeans and Asians carry anywhere between 1%-4% of Neanderthal DNA and there is almost no Neanderthal DNA in those of purely African ancestry. Comparative analyses with the human genome demonstrated that the most recent common ancestor of Neanderthals and Homo sapiens lived around 8,00,000 years ago. In 2008, a 40,000 year-old fragment from a finger-bone, sourced from a Siberian cave in a region called Denisova, yielded DNA that, analysis from Pääbo's lab revealed, was from an entirely new species of hominin called Denisova. This was the first time that a new species had been discovered based on DNA analysis. Further analysis showed that they too had interbred with humans and that 6% of human genomes in parts of South East Asia are of Denisovan ancestry.

What are the implications of palaeogenomics?

The study of ancient DNA provides an independent way to test theories of evolution and the relatedness of population groups. In 2018, an analysis of DNA extracted from skeletons at Haryana's Rakhigarhi – reported to be a prominent Indus Valley civilisation site – provoked an old debate about the indigenousness of ancient Indian population. These fossils, about 4,500 years old, have better preserved DNA than those analysed in Pääbo's labs as they are about 10-times younger. The Rakhigarhi fossils showed that these Harappan denizens lacked ancestry from Central Asians or Iranian Farmers and stoked a debate on whether this proved or disproved 'Aryan migration.' Palaeogenomics also gives clues into disease. Researchers have analysed dental fossils to glean insights on dental infections.

Genome-wide association studies, where segments of DNA from species are compared, have found that Neanderthal DNA may be linked with autoimmune diseases, type 2 diabetes, and prostate cancer. A study co-authored by Svante Pääbo and Hugo Zeberg linked an increased risk of severe respiratory failure following COVID-19 with a set of genes that are inherited from Neanderthals and is present in 50% of South Asians and 16% of Europeans. "However, with respect to the current pandemic, it is clear that gene flow from Neanderthals has tragic consequences," they say in their paper published in *Nature* in September, 2020. The presence of Neanderthal and Denisovan DNA in people also raised questions on whether there are hard genetic distinctions between people and their extinct evolutionary cousins.

Search for the beginning: Swedish geneticist Svante Pääbo. AP

The diplomat-politician

Shashi Tharoor

The former international civil servant and three-time MP from Kerala is in a heavily one-sided battle for the post of the president of the Congress, the party that he joined in 13 years ago

Sobhana K. Nair

In an interview in May 2000 to University of California Television, Shashi Tharoor described his work in the UN peacekeeping mission as something that enabled him to "leave my own smudgy thumbprints on the pages of history". Seven years later, in an interview to Al Jazeera, he repeated this very line in a similar context. One can't help but ask: by wading into a heavily one-sided battle for the post of president of the Congress party, is he, once again, trying to leave his imprint on the Indian political history?

He has been a member of the Grand Old Party only for the past 13 years. And he has weathered many controversies in this short time – be it his expulsion from Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's government as a Minister of State for External Affairs in April 2010, less than a year after the appointment, for his alleged involvement in the Kochi IPL cricket franchise bid, or the controversies around the death of his third wife Sunanda Pushkar in January 2014, who was found dead at a high-end Delhi hotel. The Delhi Police booked Mr. Tharoor under sections 498A and 306 of the Indian Penal Code. A Delhi court gave him a clean chit in August 2021.

While already in the spotlight over Pushkar's death, he kicked up another controversy in October 2014, when he accepted an invite from Prime Minister Narendra Modi to be a brand ambassador of 'Swachch Bharat'. The Congress party promptly removed him from the list of its spokespersons.

Mr. Tharoor finds himself uniquely placed, with critics at his elbow every time he takes a wrong turn or sometimes a 'right' turn. He was panned for his enunciations on Hinduism in his book *Why I am a Hindu?* by the very admirers who till then lapped up his every word. And to top this list is his overenthusiasm for witty social media posts that often lands him in a spot.

All through this dizzying roller coaster, those close to him claim that Mr. Tharoor has rarely lost his temper. His 'chief of staff' for five years, author Manu S. Pillai, said: "I have never seen him angry. If he raises his voice, it is only during cricket matches. In fact, his obsession with cricket can be baffling!" Talking about the 2014 Lok Sabha election campaign, Mr. Pillai recalls how he would sometimes stop in the middle of the campaign, if he saw a TV with the match on in a shop or some other place. "He would be glued for a few minutes, since we were always running late for rallies, this sometimes stressed the rest of us out."

He has won three Lok Sabha elections from Thiruvananthapuram and yet he continues to wrestle with the "outsider" tag. In March 2009, on the eve of the general election notification, the Congress's central leadership announced his candidacy from Kerala, much to the chagrin of the Kerala unit. "We weren't opposed to him. Instead of Thiruvananthapuram, we wanted him to contest from Palakkad since his family came from there. But he insisted on Thiruvananthapuram because of its cosmopolitan populace," Ramesh Chennithala, who was the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee president, said.

Political entry

Notwithstanding his record victories in three consecutive Lok Sabha elections, his Kerala colleagues haven't yet forgiven him for the disruption he caused with his audacious lateral entry. He ended his three-decade-long association with the UN in April 2007, after his failed bid to become the UN Secretary General. To the surprise of many, instead of joining the academia, he joined as a consultant with a Dubai-based company, Afras Ventures, in May 2007.

Working for Afras Ventures, the frequency of his travels to India dramatically increased. He spent time both in Delhi and Kerala, interacting with the political class. All along, he continued to write extensively in national newspapers. "My presence was noticed," he said. "In fact, I was asked by the CPI(M) government if I would be the brand Ambassador for Kerala. And I said I would do all that, without needing a formal title. And then, the Congress asked me whether I was willing to contest, and I said, yes, without realising what a challenge it was going to be. But I am very glad that

ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH

I did it, because fighting and winning Lok Sabha polls gave me the legitimacy in Kerala politics that I truly value."

Mr. Tharoor is simplifying the entire episode, insiders claim, that he was the first to ask for a ticket. Former National Security Adviser M.K. Narayanan backed him and may have also chipped in with help. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh also supported his name.

Initially, he was ridiculed for his rudimentary Malayalam and anglicised mannerisms. The 2009 Lok Sabha election was not just his first electoral battle, he was also voting for the first time in India. "I left India at 19 years when the voting age was 21 and had never even seen an election up close," he said.

But he has also been a poster boy of the Indian middle class for surging ahead in life solely on the strength of his erudition. Talking about his childhood, Mr. Tharoor has often described himself as a "scrawny asthmatic child", who read "eclectically and indiscriminately".

When there was nothing left to read, he would write for self-amusement. On his 13th birthday, he set himself a challenge of reading 365 books in a year and he claims he has a list to prove that he met the target. His first short story was published at the age of 10. A compulsive writer, Mr. Tharoor till date, after a long day of Parliament, conferences, book launches, office meetings and so on, stays up till 2 a.m. to do his writing. He has just released his 24th book – a biography of the father of the Constitution B.R. Ambedkar titled, *Ambedkar- A Life*.

Student life

While writing is an inextricable part of his life, he always knew even as a child that it could not be his only profession. After high school at St. Xaviers in Kolkata, an honours degree in History at St. Stephens, he went to the U.S. for MA in International Relations at The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, and a Masters of Arts in Law and Diplomacy, capping it with a PhD on the "Indira Gandhi government's foreign policy from 1967-1977" at the age of 22.

As part of his research for his thesis, he interviewed Indira Gandhi, who by then was out of power, after Congress was routed in the 1977 general elections.

That was perhaps his third meeting with Indira Gandhi. His first one was as the president of St. Stephen's student body, along with a dozen student leaders of Delhi University who were called to have tea with the Prime Minister. He managed to use the opportunity to ask her for a formal interview for a Swiss Youth magazine for which he was freelancing.

Mr. Tharoor's association with the Gandhi family would continue, in spite of his candid criticism of many of their shortcomings. In his PhD thesis which in 1982 was published as a book *Reasons of State*, he called out Indira Gandhi's government for alienating the U.S. and excessively leaning on the then Soviet Union.

Mr. Tharoor has said several times that Indira Gandhi's decision to impose Emergency was the only reason he did not sit for the civil services exam. He calls it a "profoundly disillusioning period", when right at the beginning of Emergency his short story "Political Murder" was banned by the censor.

He remains an eternal optimist, hardly discouraged by setbacks. A hope that he has transmitted to his supporters and friends, too. "I think he will do better than what many people assume," Mr. Pillai said.

THE GIST

- Tharoor ended his three-decade-long association with the UN in April 2007 after his failed bid to become the UN Secretary-General
- He started working as a consultant with a Dubai-based company before joining the Congress party and winning the Lok Sabha elections from Thiruvananthapuram thrice – 2009, 2014 and 2019
- He was a Minister of State in the Manmohan Singh government but had to quit in less than a year over his alleged involvement in the Kochi IPL cricket franchise bid

Language as a 'knife'

Annie Ernaux

Be it gender, class, female behaviour or desire, the French author, who won this year's Nobel Prize, pursues her favoured themes as if she is seeking the truth

Sudipta Datta

"I want perfection in love, as, I believe, I attained a kind of perfection in writing with *A Woman's Story*. That can only happen through giving, while throwing all caution to the wind." A diary entry from September, 1988, excerpted in *The Paris Review*, perhaps explains the fearlessness that marks the work of French writer Annie Ernaux, awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature for 2022, "for the courage and clinical acuity with which she uncovers the roots, estrangements and collective restraints of personal memory."

For the 82-year-old Ms. Ernaux, who hails from a small town in Normandy where her parents ran a grocery store and café, success came with her fourth book in 1983, *La Place* (*A Man's Place*, translated by Tanya Leslie, 1992). It's a slim memoir about her roots, written in pared-down prose after her father's death. "My mother closed the business just for the funeral. The body of my dead father was lying upstairs as she served pastis and red wine downstairs. In distinguished society, grief at the loss of a loved one is expressed through tears, silence and dignity. The social conventions observed by my mother, and for that matter the rest of the neighbourhood, had nothing to do with dignity."

This recollection may prompt readers to ask if Ms. Ernaux had moved on from her humble beginnings or did she take recourse in writing for having strayed from, and thus betrayed, her social class.

In a series of autobiographical works – on her mother (*Une Femme, A Woman's Story*, 1987/1990), more on her past (*La Honte, Shame*, 1996/1998), an illegal abortion (*L'événement, Happening*, 2000/2001), an affair (*Passion Simple*, *Simple Passion*, 1991/1993) and so forth – Ms. Ernaux sifts through memory, reconstructing the past in many ways.

Her influences are varied, ranging from the writer of the quotidian, Marcel Proust, to French sociologist Pierre Bourdieu who stood up for the marginalised. The epigraphs of her books can be from Paul Auster (*The Invention of Solitude*, a memoir on fatherhood after his dad's passing) or Anton Chekov (*They'll forget us. Such is our fate...*") or Japanese fiction writer Yuko Tsushima who once said, "I write fiction, but I experience the fiction I write." Gender, class, female behaviour, desire – Ms. Ernaux pursues her favoured themes as if she is seeking the truth.

Political act

In his appraisal of Ms. Ernaux's oeuvre, Anders Olsson of the Nobel Committee says her writing, "a political act," opens our eyes for social inequality. "And for this purpose she uses language as 'a knife', as she calls it, to tear apart the veils of imagination."

"From September last year, I did nothing else but wait for a man..." thus begins *Simple Passion*, where Ms. Ernaux blurs the line between fact and fiction to write about a two-year relationship with a Russian diplomat, who was married.

During that time, she is indifferent to everything else but actions related to this man, called A. in the novel, and S. in her journal. She would read newspaper articles about his country, write letters to him, choose clothes and make-up, change the sheets, arrange flowers, jot down things that might interest him, buy whiskey, imagine their time together, and thus fill "in time between two meetings." The liaison, she writes, made her feel pain, sympathy and compassion for other people. When the affair ends, Ms. Ernaux has an overriding urge one day to visit a building where she had had an abortion two decades back, "as if hoping that this past trauma would cancel my present grief."

Asked in the Nobel interview which book of hers she would recommend as a starting point, she said *The Years* "could bring together everyone." Translated by Alison L. Strayer and shortlisted for the 2019 Man Booker International Prize, Ms. Ernaux puts her life from 1941 to 2006 under the scanner in the ambitious book, because "all the images will disappear."

She uses language to put that world into words. In a universe living an Orwellian nightmare, where the past is being erased, the words of a French memoirist who devotes her art to truth-telling become all too important.

Enemy of the dictator

Ales Bialiatski

The Nobel Peace Prize winner from Belarus has been campaigning for human rights and freedoms from the Soviet days

Priyali Prakash

In 1996, when Belarus was in the midst of a series of street protests, Ales Bialiatski, a young activist who started campaigning for human rights during the Soviet days, formed Viasna-96 with the aim of helping arrested protesters and their families. The Minsk-based organisation became Viasna Human Rights Center, a nationwide NGO, in 1999. But when the regime of Alexander Lukashenko became increasingly authoritarian, Viasna had several run-ins with the authorities.

In 2001, the Supreme Court of Belarus cancelled the registration of the NGO for its "participation in observation of the presidential election" in the same year. But the crackdown did not stop Viasna or Mr. Bialiatski from doing what they have been doing for years – relentless campaigns for human rights and freedoms in the former Soviet Republic. Those campaigns would finally bring the Nobel Peace Prize to Mr. Bialiatski, who is currently in jail.

Mr. Bialiatski, 60, shared the 2022 Nobel Peace Prize with the Russian human rights organisation Memorial and the Ukrainian human rights organisation Center for Civil Liberties. "The Peace Prize laureates... have for many years promoted the right to criticise power and protect the fundamental rights of citizens. Together they demonstrate the significance of civil society for peace and democracy," said the Norwegian Nobel Committee in Oslo in a statement.

Fight for democracy

Apart from setting up Viasna and leading the fight for democracy in his home country, Mr. Bialiatski also served as the vice-president of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) in 2007-16, one of the oldest international human rights organisations of which Viasna is a part. Mr. Bialiatski is the current chairperson of Viasna, which has 200 members across the country. According to the New York-based Human Rights Foundation, Mr. Bialiatski is also a writer and a member of the Belarusian Writers Union.

The activist was arrested on July 14, 2021, as Belarus was witnessing another wave of mass protests triggered by claims of fraud in the 2020 Presidential election in which Mr. Lukashenko, who first became President in 1994, "won" a sixth consecutive term.

Mr. Lukashenko, who once termed himself Europe's "last and only dictator", cracked down on the protesters, Opposition leaders and activists who challenged the election results.

Mr. Bialiatski has been detained since then without trial. Human Rights Watch, the New York-based organisation, reported that he has been charged with tax evasion and faces up to seven years in prison.

This is not Mr. Bialiatski's first stint in prison. Between 2011 and 2014, he had spent about three years in jail on tax evasion charges. Since Viasna's registration in Belarus was cancelled, the NGO reportedly had foreign bank accounts which became grounds for persecution of its chairman. As a prisoner, he wrote a book titled *Enlightened by Belarus,* which was banned in the country in 2014.

Mr. Bialiatski was awarded the Right Livelihood Award, nicknamed the alternative Nobel, in 2020. The democratic opposition in Belarus, of which Mr. Bialiatski is a part, also received the European Parliament's Sakharov Prize in the same year.

Personal hardship

"Despite tremendous personal hardship, Mr. Bialiatski has not yielded an inch in his fight for human rights and democracy in Belarus," the Nobel Committee said on Friday.

Answering a question on whether the Peace Prize can increase the hardship of the awardees, Berit Reiss-Andersen, chairperson of the Nobel Peace Prize Committee, said: "We are particularly concerned about Mr. Bialiatski who is detained under very hard conditions in the prison and we do pray that this prize will not affect him negatively but we hope it might boost his morale."

"This is a dilemma that the Nobel committee always faces. But, we also have the point of view that the individuals behind these organisations have chosen to take a risk and pay a high price and show courage to fight for what they believe in," she said.

INBRIEF

Bandhan Bank's advances rise 22% to ₹99,374 crore

Bandhan Bank on Saturday reported a 22% jump in loans and advances at ₹99,374 crore at end of September quarter. Total deposits of the private sector lender rose by 21% to ₹99,365 crore at end of September quarter 2022, as against ₹81,898 crore a year earlier. Of this, retail deposits were of ₹73,660 crore, which was higher by 7% from ₹68,787 crore the year earlier. Retail deposits include current account and savings account (CASA) deposits of ₹40,509 crore, up by 11%. PTI

HCL Tech to hire 1,300 people in Mexico over two years

IT services company HCL Technologies plans to hire 1,300 people in Mexico over the next two years, according to a statement. The move is expected to strengthen its current employee base of 2,400 people in that country. HCL Tech outlined expansion plans in Mexico at its 14th-year anniversary celebration at Guadalajara, in Mexico and said it "expects to hire 1,300 people in the next two years." It will also be opening its sixth tech centre in Guadalajara. PTI

Brickwork Ratings mulls legal recourse after closure order

Brickwork Ratings said it was considering "appropriate legal recourse" after the country's market regulator ordered the credit rating firm to wind down operations within six months, citing repeated lapses and violations. "Brickwork Ratings finds the recent allegations to be a shocking development," it said late on Friday, adding it had taken "timely course correction measures" in line with regulatory instructions. SEBI did not immediately respond to a request for comment outside business hours. REUTERS

Parboiled rice exports take a hit on customs duty stand-off

1,000 tonnes are held up at ports as Customs officials are said to seek 20% duty, classifying the item as raw rice based on appearance; rice mill owners' association warns of impact on farmers

M. Soundariya Preetha
COIMBATORE

Almost 1,000 tonnes of parboiled rice – which is used to make idlis – have reportedly been held up at ports in Tamil Nadu since last month following the Centre's order that levied 20% duty on raw rice exports, while banning the export of broken rice.

"Due to the presence of chalky white grains (white belly) in rice (which is its normal appearance), customs officials at ports are not accepting it as parboiled rice," the Tamil Nadu Rice Mill Owners Association said in a tweet.

What's in a name: Port officials should look at criteria other than appearance, says Jeyaraman of RMJ Modern Rice Mills. FILE PHOTO

Association secretary M. Sivanandan said Tamil Nadu is the main producer of idli rice, which is parboiled, and is exported to... Dubai, Japan, Canada, and Singapore. The rice looks white though it is parboiled. The officials are asking exporters to pay 20% duty, treating it as raw rice, he alleged. With almost 1,000 tonnes held up, the mills are unable to make fresh paddy purchases. "This is harvest season for this variety of paddy; when millers do not buy, farmers are affected."

Thangapandi Jeyaraman, managing partner at RMJ Modern Rice Mill, said officials at the ports should look at criteria other than appearance, he added.

Pharmexcil suspends membership of Maiden Pharma

N. Ravi Kumar
HYDERABAD

The company will now not be entitled to incentives under the Centre's Market Access initiative

Exporters' body Pharmexcil suspended the membership of Maiden Pharmaceuticals, the Delhi-based drugmaker facing a probe after the World Health Organization (WHO) red-flagged four products following the death of 66 children in the West African country The Gambia.

As the Council did not receive any input/report on the adverse events, from the firm, the membership of Maiden Pharmaceuticals is being suspended with immediate effect, Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India Director General Ravi Udaya Bhaskar said.

This means the firm will not be entitled to incentives available under the Centre's Market Access initiative. Under the scheme, incentives up to ₹2 crore are extended to a company registering its product with a drug/health regulator abroad. Another benefit that will not be available is a ₹25-lakh one-time grant to MSMEs for implementing the pharmaceutical drug track-and-trace system, he said

Withdrawal of IEC?

Going forward, Pharmexcil may also recommend to the Directorate General of Foreign Trade to withdraw the import export code (IEC) of the company, thus making it ineligible to export, Mr. Bhaskar said.

On October 6, the Council had sought details of licensees and importers to whom the drugs were supplied as well as the manufacturing licence copies and product permissions of the products from Maiden. Failure to provide the information would result in the company's registration-cum-membership certificate getting suspended without further notice, it had said then, setting October 7 as the deadline.

The exporters' body, under the Commerce Ministry, had also advised the firm to investigate reasons for the serious adverse events and update with findings.

"From the preliminary enquiry of CDSCO, it has been made out that Maiden Pharmaceutical, Sonepat, Haryana is a manufacturer licensed by the State Drug Controller for... Promethazine Oral Solution BP, Kofexnalin Baby Cough Syrup, MaKoff Baby Cough Syrup and MaGrip n Cold Syrup under reference and holds manufacturing permission for these products for export only. The company has manufactured and exported these products only to Gambia," Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare had said in a statement on October 6.

There has been no update on the investigations by CDSCO since.

'Hydrazine hydrate imports to fall by 60%'

Reuters
AHMEDABAD

Gujarat Alkalies and Chemicals Ltd. will start manufacturing hydrazine hydrate, a liquid industrial material, at its new plant in Gujarat, a company executive said on Saturday.

India imports almost all of its annual requirement of 17,000 tonnes of hydrazine hydrate, which is mainly used as a starting product in agrochemical, pharmaceutical, automotive and leisure industries. The GACL unit "will be the first large-scale factory of hydrazine hydrate and will cut down the nation's import of the chemical by 60%," Swaroop P., the company's managing director, told Reuters.

The new factory, which will produce 10,000 tonnes of hydrazine hydrate annually, cost $49 million. It will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday.

The company produces hydrogen peroxide, technical and food grade phosphoric acid and caustic potash, among other chemicals.

Retail job searches dip 11.8%: Indeed report

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

There has been a decline of 11.8% in Indians searching for retail jobs from August 2021 to August this year, according to a report.

Indians searching for retail jobs had seen a fall during the pandemic and beyond as jobs in the sector had seen a 5.5% contraction over three years ended August 2022, global job site Indeed said in the report.

Although retail job searches saw an uptick of 27.7% from August 2020 to August 2021, it again shrank, the report showed.

This could largely have be due to the lockdowns last year and the work-from-home set up where people chose to purchase online during festivities, Indeed noted.

Lehry's local unit set to produce lead-free brass valves, says MD

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Abbas S. Lehry

Lehry Instrumentation and Valves Pvt. Ltd. has established a ₹30-crore non-ferrous integrated production facility near Chennai to make lead-free brass valves for the infrastructure and utility markets, said MD Abbas S. Lehry.

"Established at Gummudipoondi Industrial Estate, the new plant will start churning out 5,000 pieces of lead-free forged brass valves daily," the MD said.

The new factory is spread across 60,000 sq.ft. It will be inaugurated by the former MD of Grundfos Pumps N.K. Ranganathan on Sunday. "Till recently, we were importing this product from China," said Mr. Lehry. "This is an import substitution product and the savings for the end-customer would be about 20%. The project cost is met partly through internal accruals and borrowings," he said.

Sundaram-Clayton cuts stake to 21% in TVS's training firm

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Sundaram-Clayton Ltd. (SCL) has reduced its stake in associate firm TVS Training and Services Ltd. by selling 8.57 lakh shares for ₹1.24 crore.

As a result, the company's holding now stands at 21.07%, down from 30.53%. The stake was purchased by Malini Srinivasan, Sundaram-Clayton said in a regulatory filing.

Ms. Srinivasan does not belong to the promoter group. Yet, the transaction qualified as a related-party transaction as she is a relative of a director, according to the filing.

> The deal qualifies as a related-party transaction because the buyer of the stake is a relative of a director

Established in 2011, TVS Training and Services provides training in a wide array of domains such as automotive, engineering, finance and retail.

The company has four training centres in Chennai and one in Sri City, A.P., according to its website.

It has provided training to about 1.4 lakh people in various verticals.

Must break the stigma around mental health at work: Accenture

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Lakshmi C.

Health and well-being have emerged among the biggest priorities for enterprises today and it is okay for an employee to say "I am not okay" at work if they feel so, said Lakshmi C., managing director, Human Resources Lead, Accenture.

"Realising the increasing need for mental health and well-being, our endeavour is to create psychologically safe spaces where our people feel comfortable enough to say 'I'm not okay', and reach out for help via the resources and support systems that we offer," said Ms. Lakshmi.

Ms. Lakshmi said that Accenture had been trying to encourage employees to embrace their mental well-being with dignity and compassion.

"We are enabling this by creating awareness and through advocacy to break the stigma around mental health," she added.

"Accenture focusses on the holistic well-being of its employees, an approach that all aspects of the body, mind, heart and soul, are factored in.

We also encourage our people to practise self-care in addition to the medical benefit programmes we offer to employees and their families," the MD said.

Focus on self-care

Accenture offers its employees access to AI-enabled solutions focussed on self-care and building resilience.

The company's medical insurance benefits programme also covers mental health consultation for employees and their dependent family members. During its 'Ask Away' sessions, employees get a chance to interact with eminent global and national experts on building mental resilience, staying happy, healthy and coping with stress, the company said.

'Lead with compassion'

To make mental well-being initiatives more inclusive, Accenture also takes its leaders and people managers through training, so that they lead with "compassion and identify any early signs of stress" among their team members, according to Ms. Lakshmi.

NEW ARRIVAL
THE HINDU GROUP
A SPECIAL PUBLICATION FROM THE HINDU GROUP
The Lockdown Cookbook brings together meals of varied kinds, from family recipes to inventive treats rustled up from local produce. It illustrates how easy it is to create meals that focus on good health without compromising on taste.
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BILLIARDS

Advani pockets World title No. 25 in Kuala Lumpur

Pankaj Advani claimed his 25th World title outclassing compatriot Sourav Kothari 4-0 in the 150-up billiards final at the World Championships in Kuala Lumpur on Saturday. Advani also completed a billiards National-Asian-World golden trifecta in the same calendar year for a record fifth time.

HOCKEY

Harmanpreet Singh is FIH Player-of-the-Year again

India defender Harmanpreet Singh was on Friday named FIH men's Player-of-the-Year for the second successive time. The 26-year-old became just the fourth player to win the award in consecutive years, joining Teun de Nooijer (Ned), Jamie Dwyer (Aus) and Arthur van Doren (Bel). Harmanpreet totalled 29.4 points.

CRICKET

Skipper Azam steers Pakistan to victory over New Zealand

Babar Azam's 79 took Pakistan to its second win in the T20I tri-series at Christchurch on Saturday, beating New Zealand by six wickets.

The scores: New Zealand 147/8 in 20 overs (Devon Conway 36, Mark Chapman 32; Haris Rauf 3/28) lost to Pakistan 149/4 in 18.2 overs (Babar Azam 79 n.o., Shadab Khan 34).

KABADDI

Pirates-Paltan and Giants-Thalaivas in exciting ties on Super Saturday

Puneri Paltan's Aslam Inamdar's superb performance gave his side a seven-point lead in the first half, but Patna Pirates fought back through raider Sachin as their Pro Kabaddi League contest ended in a tie (34-34) in Bengaluru on Saturday. Gujarat Giants and Tamil Thalaivas were also involved in a thrilling tie (31-31).

Shafali and Smriti show the way as India beats Bangladesh

Team makes the semifinals; Shafali also goes past 1000 runs in Twenty20 Internationals; Jemimah chips in with a splendid cameo; Indian bowlers keep host batters on a tight leash

ASIA CUP

Press Trust of India
SYLHET

Shafali Verma showed her match-winning prowess with an aggressive 55 off 44 balls as India defeated Bangladesh by 59 runs to win its fourth match and clinch a semifinal spot in the Women's Asia Cup here on Saturday.

After an indifferent batting show in the defeat to Pakistan, the Women In Blue put up a much-improved performance scoring 159 for five, thanks to a 96-run opening stand between Shafali and stand-in skipper Smriti Mandhana (47, 38b). Credit should also go to Jemimah Rodrigues, whose 35 not out off just 24 balls.

On top

Bangladesh managed 100 for seven in its 20 overs and never looked like making a match of it.

With eight points from five games, India is on top of the seven-team table with a match left in the round robin stage.

Never having successfully chased a total over 142, Bangladesh could not force the pace against a solid Indian bowling attack which kept things tight.

After a shoddy fielding effort against Pakistan, the Indians were extra alert. 'The hosts couldn't even score 50 in the first 10 overs and the asking rate after that was just beyond them.

None of the Indian bowlers were off target for the better part with Sneh Rana (1/17 in 3 overs) and Deepti Sharma (2/13, 4 overs) being parsimonious as ever. Even Shafali's loopy leg-breaks (2/10, 4 overs) seemed unplayable.

Openers Fargana Hoqie (30, 40b) and Murshida Khatun (21, 25b) put on just 45 in the first nine overs and Bangladesh was virtually out of the contest at that stage.

Milestone

Earlier, Shafali showed why she is one of the most destructive batters in this format as she struck five fours and two huge sixes. En route to her fourth half-century in T20Is, Shafali also completed 1000 runs in the format.

The elegant Smriti as usual peppered the field with six crisp boundaries.

Once Smriti and Shafali were dismissed, Bangladesh could briefly put the brakes on the scoring, but the in-form Jemimah used her cricketing smarts to find the gaps as she and Deepti Sharma added 29 in just 2.3 overs to set a challenging target.

Back in the groove: Shafali's match-winning abilities were once more on display. PTI

SCOREBOARD

INDIA

Shafali Verma b Rumana 55 *(44b, 5x4, 2x6)*, Smriti Mandhana run out 47 *(38b, 6x4)*, Jemimah Rodrigues (not out) 35 *(24b, 4x4)*, Richa Ghosh c Fargana b Rumana 4 *(7b)*, Kiran Navgire b Rumana 0 *(1b)*, Deepti Sharma c Sanjida b Salma 10 *(5b, 1x6)*, Pooja Vastrakar (not out) 1 *(1b)*; Extras (b-2, w-5): 7; Total (for five wkts. in 20 overs): 159.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-96 (Smriti, 11.6 overs), 2-114 (Shafali, 14.5), 3-125 (Richa, 16.5), 4-125 (Kiran, 16.6), 5-154 (Deepti, 19.3).

BANGLADESH BOWLING

Sanjida 4-0-20-0, Fariha 2-0-25-0, Salma 3-0-16-1, Nahida 2-0-26-0, Ritu 2-0-22-0, Fahima 4-0-21-0, Rumana 3-0-27-3.

BANGLADESH

Fargana Hoque c Sneh b Deepti 30 *(40b, 3x4)*, Murshida Khatun c Smriti b Sneh 21 *(25b, 2x4)*, Nigar Sultana st. Richa b Shafali 36 *(29b, 5x4)*, Rumana Ahmed run out 0 *(3b)*, Ritu Moni c Sneh b Renuka 4 *(12b)*, Fahima Khatun st. Richa b Shafali 1 *(3b)*, Lata Mondal b Deepti 1 *(2b)*, Nahida Akter (not out) 0 *(1b)*, Salma Khatun (not out) 5 *(5b)*; Extras (w-2): 2; Total (for seven wkts. in 20 overs): 100.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-45 (Murshida, 9.1), 2-68 (Fargana, 13.4), 3-69 (Rumana, 14.2), 4-91 (Ritu, 17.6), 5-94 (Sultana, 18.2), 6-95 (Fahima, 18.5), 7-95 (Lata, 19.1).

INDIA BOWLING

Deepti 4-0-13-2, Renuka 3-0-22-1, Rajeshwari 3-0-21-0, Pooja 3-0-17-0, Sneh 3-0-17-1, Shafali 4-0-10-2.

Toss: India.

Player-of-the-Match: Shafali.

India looks to rebound from first-match setback

S. AFRICA IN INDIA

P.K. Ajith Kumar
RANCHI

The covers came on at the JSCA Stadium on Saturday afternoon, some time after South Africa finished its training session. The drizzle thankfully didn't last long.

Though some dark clouds lingered for a while, the day turned bright and sunny later on. India and South Africa must be hoping the weather stays like that on Sunday.

After rain claimed 20 overs from the first One-Day International at Lucknow on Thursday, the teams must be looking forward to playing a full match. The forecast doesn't rule out rain completely, though, but things do not look as bleak as they did on the eve of the first of the three-game series.

India's concerns

The weather wasn't the only thing that may have worried the Indian team management at Lucknow. True, India lost only by nine runs; but for that superb knock by Sanju Samson, the margin would have been much bigger.

Granted, it is not the first-choice Indian team that is playing the series and it is up against a strong South African side. Still one could certainly count on Shikhar Dhawan's men to bounce back in the second ODI.

Should they need inspiration to come back from a tough situation, they could think of the city's most famous son, former India captain M. S. Dhoni, who had figured in the last ODI played on this ground.

India will need to come up with better efforts in all three departments of the game against the Proteas, for whom the series is more important than it is for its rival. The South Africans have to collect the Super League points required for qualification for the next World Cup.

Despite the poor form of captain Temba Bavuma, the South African batting is in good shape, with Quinton de Kock, David Miller and Heinrich Klaasen all putting runs on the board at Lucknow. As for bowling, the excellent pace trio of Kagiso Rabada, Lungi Ngidi and Wayne Parnell were backed well by Keshav Maharaj's left-arm spin.

Dhawan & Co. will have to apply themselves better against this quality attack.

It will be interesting to see if the in-form batter Rajat Patidar gets his India cap.

The bowling received a setback with seamer Deepak Chahar ruled out of the series with a stiff back and has been replaced by Washington Sundar. Shardul Thakur, who performed creditably with both bat and bowl in the first ODI, may not mind more support from other bowlers and fielders.

His turn: Washington gets a chance to showcase his utility value to the team. K.R. DEEPAK

> We can have a deeper batting line-up and make a difference to the game
> – SHARDUL

The teams (from):

India: Shikhar Dhawan (Capt.), Shubman Gill, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Shreyas Iyer, Rajat Patidar, Rahul Tripathi, Ishan Kishan, Sanju Samson, Shahbaz Ahmed, Shardul Thakur, Kuldeep Yadav, Ravi Bishnoi, Mukesh Kumar, Avesh Khan, Mohammed Siraj, Washington Sundar.

South Africa: Temba Bavuma (Capt.), Quinton de Kock, Heinrich Klaasen, Reeza Hendricks, Janneman Malan, Aiden Markram, David Miller, Lungi Ngidi, Anrich Nortje, Wayne Parnell, Andile Phehlukwayo, Keshav Maharaj, Dwaine Pretorius, Kagiso Rabada, Tabraiz Shamsi. *Match starts at 1.30 p.m.*

Costa header hands BFC a winning start in ISL-9

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

A late header from defender Alan Costa ensured a triumphant return for Bengaluru FC to the Sree Kanteerava Stadium as the side edged NorthEast United FC 1-0 on Saturday.

The 87th minute goal came from a corner as the 6'3" Brazilian towered above the defence to meet fine ball from Javi Hernandez. But the match ended in acrimony when an injury-time equaliser from Ion Gaztanaga was ruled out for off-side, much to the chagrin of coach Mark Balbul, who was sent off for protesting.

It was a part-lively, part-tepid performance from BFC. From the outset, the idea was to exploit the pace of N. Sivasakthi and Roy Krishna.

Long-range passes from Suresh Wangjam and Prabir Das to the two forwards were a constant feature. But the first opportunity arrived in the 14th minute following a mazy run on the left flank from Naorem Roshan, whose cut-back Sivasakthi sent inches wide. Minutes later, M.S. Jithin missed a one-on-one for the visitors.

The encounter, though, soon slipped into a contest of half-chances. Frenchman Romain Philippoteaux's was a mesmerising presence in the No. 10 role for NorthEast, but his teammates disappointed. BFC's initial pop too fizzled out quickly.

At the hour mark, BFC head coach Simon Grayson introduced creator Hernandez, and then the pacy winger Udanta Singh by withdrawing defender Aleksandar Jovanovic. The pressure soon told, with Costa's goal sending the nearly 20,000 fans into raptures.

NorthEast's Parthib Gogoi almost poured cold water on BFC's celebrations but his stunning on-the-turn shot clattered off the cross bar. There was more drama in store, but BFC was not to be denied.

Decisive blow: Costa's strike sealed it for BFC. K. MURALI KUMAR

Matter of time before India produces an NBA star: Sheikh

Ashwin Achal
ABU DHABI

Ramez Sheikh, Managing Director, NBA Asia and India, believes that it is only a matter of time before India produces an NBA star.

"It's a matter of time (before India produces an NBA star). The pandemic had halted a lot of our on-ground activities in India. But now that we have resumed our grassroots infrastructure programmes in India, we are optimistic," said Sheikh at a media interaction here on Saturday.

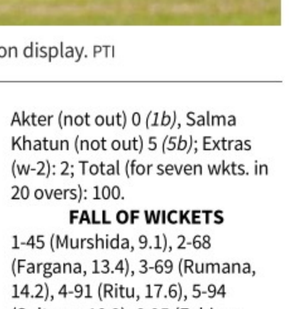
Sheikh cited NBA Academy India graduate Amaan Sandhu as an example of the nation taking the right steps towards achieving the big goal.

Sandhu recently became the first male Indian basketball player to commit to a NCAA Division 1 college (Monmouth University).

"There has been Indian talent who have played in the NBA G League. One of our academy graduates, Sandhu, has signed to play Division I college basketball in the USA. So we are beginning to see incremental progress. We're seeing talent emerging from India," Sheikh said.

"It is part of our responsibility to create local programmes to inspire the youth in India to pick up a basketball and give it to go. We are trying balance immediate and long term possibilities," Sheikh said.

(The author is in Abu Dhabi on invitation from NBA India).



Sheikh. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Dortmund snatches a draw against Bayern with late goal

EURO LEAGUES

Agence France-Presse
DORTMUND

French striker Anthony Modeste scored deep into injury time as Borussia Dortmund snatched a 2-2 draw at home to Bayern Munich on Saturday.

Modeste came off the bench after 70 minutes with Bayern 2-0 ahead.

The striker, who has been heavily criticised for a lack of output since moving from Cologne earlier in the season, set up a 74th minute goal for teenage forward Youssoufa Moukoko.

Modeste then headed in the equaliser at the last possible moment from a superb cross from defender Nico Schlotterbeck.

Hero: Modeste, left, heads in Dortmund's equaliser. REUTERS

Important results:

Premier League: Bournemouth 2 (Billing 67, Christie 71) bt Leicester 1 (Daka 10); Chelsea 3 (Havertz 45, Pulisic 54, Broja 90) bt Wolves 0; Manchester City 4 (Cancelo 20, Foden 32, Mahrez 49, Haaland 65) bt Southampton 0. Newcastle 5 (Guimaraes 21 & 56, Murphy 28, Almiron 82, Pinnock 90-og) bt Brentford 1 (Toney 54-pen); Brighton 0 lost to Tottenham 1 (Kane 22).

LaLiga: Atletico Madrid 2 (Correa 5, 48) bt Girona 1 (Riquelme 66).

Serie A: AC Milan 2 (Tomori 45+1, Diaz 54) bt Juventus 0; Sassuolo 1 (Frattesi 60) lost to Inter 2 (Dzeko 44 & 75).

Bundesliga: Borussia Dortmund 2 (Moukoko 74, Modeste 90+5) drew with Bayern Munich 2 (Goretzka 33, Sane 53).

INBRIEF

Gambhir is global mentor for RPSG's T20 teams

RP-Sanjiv Goenka Group has appointed former India opener and its IPL franchise team Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) mentor Gautam Gambhir as a global mentor for its cricketing operations. Gambhir, in addition to guiding LSG, will now also mentor RPSG Group's T20 team in South Africa – Durban's Super Giants.

IOC proposes paid CEO for IOA

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) may have an "appointed CEO" instead of an elected secretary-general after the December elections as the International Olympic Committee (IOC) has proposed far-reaching changes to the constitution of the national sports apex body.

Klusener resigns as Zimbabwe batting coach

Lance Klusener resigned from his post as the Zimbabwe batting coach with immediate effect. The former South Africa all-rounder has stepped down after reaching a mutual agreement with Zimbabwe Cricket. His resignation will come as a big blow for Zimbabwe as it steps up its preparation for the upcoming ICC Men's T20 World Cup in Australia, starting on October 16.

Buttler '100% fit' for T20 WC opener against Afghanistan

England batter and white-ball skipper Jos Buttler said he is back to his 100% fitness ahead of the ICC T20 World Cup 2022 in Australia. "I am back to 100% fitness. I had a good time in Pakistan rehabbing," Buttler was quoted by *Sky Sports* on Saturday.

Goa to host next National Games, says IOA

Goa will host the 37th National Games in October 2023, the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) confirmed on Saturday. The Goa state government has conveyed to the IOA its in-principle approval to host the next edition. The IOA, however, said the dates for the event will decided later.

Chahat breaks a long-standing record in 100m breaststroke

The Punjab girl in a league of her own as she destroys the field; Karnataka's Srihari picks up his fourth gold with a meet record in 100m freestyle while Shivangi pips favourite Maana to clinch the women's gold

NG SWIMMING

M. R. Praveen Chandran
RAJKOT

Punjab's Chahat Arora erased one of the longest standing records from the books as she powered her way to gold in 100m breaststroke on the final day of the swimming events of the 36th National Games at the Sardar Patel Aquatic Complex here on Saturday.

Chahat, who set the national record (1:13.61s) in the event at the National Championships in Guwahati recently, warmed up by equalling Sajani Shetty's 25-year-old mark by clocking 1:17.35s in the heats held in the morning.

New mark

In the final, Chahat was in a league of her own as she destroyed the field early and with a strong finish sank the old record with a timing of 1:14.42s.

Stunning show: Shivangi emerged on top in the women's 100m freestyle. RITU RAJ KONWAR

The Maharashtra duo of Jyoti Patil and Aarati Patil came second and third.

"I am happy that my hard work has paid off. I was confident of breaking the record here as I had set the national mark in the Guwahati nationals.

"I challenged myself and didn't bother too much about my rivals," she said after the event.

Srihari Nataraj of Karnataka picked up his fourth gold medal in 100m freestyle with a meet record.

Srihari beat a strong field which included Sajan Prakash.

Srihari was never challenged in the race as he hit the front early and with a good finish clocked 50.41 to break Aaron D'Souza's 2015 mark (50.97s). Sajan finished a poor seventh.

SSCB's S.P. Likith swam to his third gold while winning the 100m breaststroke in 1:02.12s. Assam's Shivangi Sarma, with a late burst, pipped favourite Maana Patel to clinch the gold in women's 100m freestyle event.

Tamil Nadu won the gold in 4x100m mixed relay in 4:011.08s beating the challenge from Karnataka and Gujarat which finished second and third.

The results:

Men: 100m breaststroke: 1. S.P. Likith (SSCB) (1:02.77s), 2. S. Danush (TN), 3. Anoop Augustine (Ker); **100m freestyle:** Srihari Nataraj (Kar), (50.41s: NGR; OR: 50.97, Aaron D' Souza, MP, 2015), 2. Vishal Grewal, 3. A.S. Anand (SSCB); **4x100m mixed medley:** 1. Tamil Nadu (4:11.08s), 2. Karnataka, 3. Gujarat.

Women: 100m breaststroke: Chahat Arora (Pun) (1:14.42: NGR; OR: 1:17,35, Sajani Shetty, Karnataka, 1997 & Chahat Arora, Punjab, 2022), 2. Jyoti Patil (Mah), 3. Aarti Patil (Mah); **100m freestyle:** 1. Shivangi Sharma (Asm), 2. Maana Patel (Guj), 3. S. Rujula (Kar).

Karandeep takes sole lead among men

NG GOLF

Sports Bureau
AHMEDABAD

Karandeep Kochhar took the sole lead among men with an aggregate of 199, while Amandeep Kaur retained her lead among women with 212 after the penultimate round of the golf competitions in the National Games at the Kensville Golf and Country Club here on Saturday.

Chandigarh led in the team competition for men. Punjab and Karnataka shared the top place in the women's section.

The scores: Men: Individual: Karandeep Kochhar (68, 66, 65) 199; Abhinav Lohan (68, 66, 72) 206; Ishaan Chawhan (71, 72, 68) and Sunhit Bishnoi (73, 69, 69) 211; Arjun Bhati (72, 70, 70) 212. **Team:** Chandigarh 431; Karnataka 435; Haryana 436; Gujarat 439; Delhi 442. **Women: Individual:** Amandeep Kaur (72, 69, 71) 212; Avani Prashanth (71, 74, 71) 216; Nishna Patel (74, 68, 80) 222; Puneet Kaur Bajwa (75, 74, 74) 223; Vani Kapoor (75, 74, 75), Seher Kaur Atwal (76, 77, 71) and Gaurika Bishnoi (73, 74, 77) 224. **Team:** Punjab and Karnataka 442; Haryana 450; Maharashtra 451; Delhi 457.

Sanjeet shows his class in outwitting young Harish

NG BOXING

Y.B. Sarangi
GANDHINAGAR

Asian champion Sanjeet showed his class to outwit the young Uttarakhand rival Harish Singh and book a place in the men's 92kg quarterfinals at the boxing arena of the National Games here on Saturday.

Sanjeet of Services set up a last-eight clash with Delhi's Harsh Kaushik, who got past a never-say-die Ajay Kumar of Karnataka 5-0. Sanjeet lived up to the billing.

He began by landing a lusty upper cut, resulting in a standing count on Harish, and then used his trademark jabs and combinations to gain ground.

Even as Harish showed some courage, the taller Sanjeet boxed from a long range and moved around well to stay ahead.

A few blows from Sanjeet in the third round forced the referee to stop the contest.

Dominant: Sanjeet, left, used his trademark jabs and combinations to good effect. V.V. KRISHNAN

"I could have finished off the fight in the first round, but I wanted some ring time," said Sanjeet.

"My Commonwealth Games performance was frustrating. I had sleepless nights, but didn't want any sympathy.

"I learnt a lesson and tightened my third round game. Now I want to build up for the Asian Games," said Sanjeet.

Important results (preliminary round): Men: 75kg: Malsawmitluanga (Miz) bt Sahil Aslam (Guj) 5-0; **80kg:** Vinit (Har) bt Aswin Ramesh (TN) 5-0; **92kg:** Neeraj Kumar (Raj) bt Ashish Bahndor (HP) 4-1, Harsh Kaushik (Del) bt Ajay Kumar (Kar) 5-0, Sanjeet (SSCB) bt Harish Singh (Utk) RSC-R3; **+92kg:** Mohit (Har) bt Sayeed Bin Ali (Tel) RSC-R2.
Women: 57kg: Mandeep Kaur (Pun) bt J. Hannah Joy (TN) RSC-R3, Savita (Chd) bt Roshni Subba (Sik) 5-0; **66kg:** Alena Thounaojam (Man) bt Devika D. (Ker) RSC-R3, Komalpreet Kaur (Pun) bt Sneha Shelar (Mah) 5-0.

Haryana blanks TN to enter the semifinals

HOCKEY

Sports Bureau
RAJKOT

Haryana blanked Tamil Nadu 3-0 to enter the men's hockey semifinals in the 36th National Games at the Dhyanchhand Hockey Stadium here on Saturday.

Tamil Nadu started on a promising note but faded away as Haryana found its rhythm and took control of the midfield.

Tamil Nadu earned two penalty corners and an open chance in the first 10 minutes but couldn't convert any of them.

Haryana settled down and displayed good cohesion in the middle and piled pressure on Tamil Nadu with sharp moves.

An unmarked Bharat tapped in the first goal from close to put Haryana ahead in the ninth minute.

Mandeep Mor converted a penalty corner to increase the lead in the 35th minute while Abhishek scored a field goal in the 50th minute to complete the tally.

Off the mark: Haryana captain Bharat scores the first goal against Tamil Nadu. RITU RAJ KONWAR

Karnataka stormed into the semifinals with an easy 11-2 win over host Gujarat. Sheshe Gowda scored a hat-trick for the winner which led 6-1 at half-time.

Maharashtra prevailed over Jharkhand 3-1 to enter the semifinals. Yuvraj Walmiki scored a brace for Maharashtra.

Uttar Pradesh edged out West Bengal 5-4 in the tie-breaker to book a passage into the last four.

In the semifinals on Monday, Haryana will meet Karnataka while Maharashtra will take on Uttar Pradesh.

The results (quarterfinals):
Haryana bt Tamil Nadu 3-0.
Karnataka bt Gujarat 11-2.
Uttar Pradesh bt West Bengal 5-4.
Maharashtra bt Jharkhand 3-1.

LIVE TELECAST

National Games: DD Sports & Sony Six (SD & HD) & LIV, 7.30 a.m. onwards.

Women's Asia Cup: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 8.30 a.m. & 1 p.m.

Formula 1: Japanese GP, SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 10.30 a.m.

T20I tri-series: Prime Video, 11.30 a.m.

India vs South Africa: 2nd ODI, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 1.30 p.m.

Australia vs England: 1st T20I, Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD) & LIV, 1.40 p.m.

Serie A: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Voot Select, 4, 6.30, 9.30 p.m. & 12.15 a.m. (Monday).

La Liga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Voot Select, 5.30, 7.45, 10 p.m. & 12.30 a.m. (Monday).

Premier League: SS Select 1, 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 6.30, 9 & 11.30 p.m.

Bundesliga: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 7 & 9 p.m.

ISL: Hotstar, 7.30 p.m.

Pro-Kabaddi League: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 & 9 p.m.

Naveen John overcomes challenges, defends title

CYCLING

Sports Bureau

Karnataka's Naveen John defended his title in the men's 38km individual time trial in the road cycling competition of the National Games at Gandhinagar on Saturday.

Naveen, who did not travel to Delhi for the 4000m individual pursuit event to focus on the road races, overcame some challenges to clock 49:01.635.

"My racing suit, which has been with me through victories in seven National championships, gave up. A safety pin came in handy, but I was not in the race mindset through the first loop of 19km. I could see the worried look on Karnataka coach Anita's face and reminded myself why I was here and cranked up my pace on the second loop to succeed in my mission of defending the time trial gold," said Naveen, enjoying the nice weather preceded by a wet evening.

Tongbram Monorama Devi, who was part of the Indian team in the 2018 Commonwealth Games, defeated Chayanika Gogoi to win the women's 85km Road Race.

The results (road events):
Men: 38km individual time trial: 1. Naveen John (Kar) 49:01.635; 2. Arvind Panwar (UP) 50:30.733; 3. Joel Santosh Sundaram (TN) 50:42.114.
Women: 85km road race: 1. Tongbram Monorama Devi (Man); 2. Chayanika Gogoi (Asm); 3. Pooja Baban Danole (Mah).

Medals Table

	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Services	45	31	28	104
Haryana	30	25	28	83
Maharashtra	28	28	54	110
Karnataka	23	22	35	80
Tamil Nadu	22	21	22	65
Uttar Pradesh	19	15	13	47
Punjab	15	25	19	59
Kerala	15	16	13	44
Manipur	15	5	14	34
Delhi	13	15	31	59

In perfect harmony

Balancing act: The Madhya Pradesh team rehearses for the Mallakhamb event of the National Games in Gandhinagar. V.V. KRISHNAN

Verstappen takes pole ahead of Leclerc

JAPANESE GP

Agence France-Presse
SUZUKA

Max Verstappen gave himself a great chance to retain his Formula One World title at Sunday's Japanese Grand Prix after grabbing pole in Suzuka. The Red Bull driver topped the timesheets in qualifying with a time of 1:29.304s, just 0.010s ahead of Ferrari's Charles Leclerc, his nearest championship rival. Carlos Sainz was third in the other Ferrari.

Verstappen then faced a nervous wait after stewards said they would investigate an on-track incident involving the Dutchman and McLaren's Lando Norris. Verstappen was given a reprimand but will remain in pole.

He can clinch the title on Sunday if he wins the race with the fastest lap, no matter what his rivals do. He will also retain his crown if he wins and Leclerc is third or lower.

"I'm not thinking about it too much, just taking it day by day," said the 25-year-old Verstappen, who has won 11 of 17 races this season.

THE GRID

Front row: Verstappen (Red Bull), Leclerc (Ferrari); **2nd row:** Sainz (Ferrari), Perez (Red Bull); **3rd row:** Ocon (Alpine), Hamilton (Mercedes); **4th row:** Alonso (Alpine), Russell (Mercedes); **5th row:** Vettel (Aston Martin), Norris (McLaren); **6th row:** Ricciardo (McLaren), Bottas (Alfa Romeo); **7th row:** Tsunoda (Alpha Tauri), Zhou (Alfa Romeo); **8th row:** Schumacher (Haas), Albon (Williams); **9th row:** Gasly (Alpha Tauri), Magnussen (Haas); **10th row:** Stroll (Aston Martin), Latifi (Williams).

Racing home: Once Sai Sanjay pulled ahead, there was no stopping him. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sai Sanjay outclasses the field in MRF F2000 category

The 19-year-old from Salem, starting from P2 on the grid, capitalises on a good start and holds off Shahan to take the top spot; Thrissur's Diljith storms to victory in the Formula LGB 1300 class

MOTORSPORTS

Sports Reporter
CHENNAI

Salem teenager Sai Sanjay cruised to victory in the MRF F2000 category while Thrissur's Diljith Shaji took the honours in the Formula LGB 1300 class as the opening round of the MRF-MMSC FMSCI Indian National Car Racing Championship 2022 began at the Madras International Circuit here on Saturday.

Justin Singh, a 20-year-old from Gurugram, took the top spot in the MRF Saloons (Toyota Eitos) category with a lights-to-flag win in the final race of the day. Pune's Diana Pundole and Angad Matharoo (Chandigarh) followed in that order.

The 19-year-old Sai, started from P2 on the grid and pulled ahead after a good start. He hung on to his position despite being put under pressure by Agra's Shahan Ali Mohsin for much of the 10-lapper.

Shahan Ali, last year's MRF F1600 champion, was second while Yash Aradhya finished on the podium holding off pole-sitter and fellow Bengalurean Rishon Rajeev.

Diljith's day out: The DTS Racing driver led a 1-2 finish for his team. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The 29-year-old Diljith led a 1-2 finish for DTS Racing, with Nellore's Viswas Vijayaraj for company, while Bengaluru's Arjun Nair (Momentum Motorsports) came third. The eight-lap race, after a tight battle in the early stages, was settled once Diljith nosed ahead.

In the premier Indian Touring Cars category, Coimbatore's Arjun Balu, 47, the defending champion from Race Concepts (Bengaluru), grabbed the pole position with a sizzling lap of 01m 50.000s.

Chennai veteran Gurunath Meyyappan (Race Concepts), making a return to racing after a long break, took pole in the Indian Junior Touring Cars category.

Provisional results: MRF F2000 (Race-1, 10 laps): 1. Sai Sanjay T (Salem) (15m 47.253s); 2. Shahan Ali Mohsin (Agra) (15:47.856); 3. Yash Aradhya S (Bengaluru) (15:51.725).

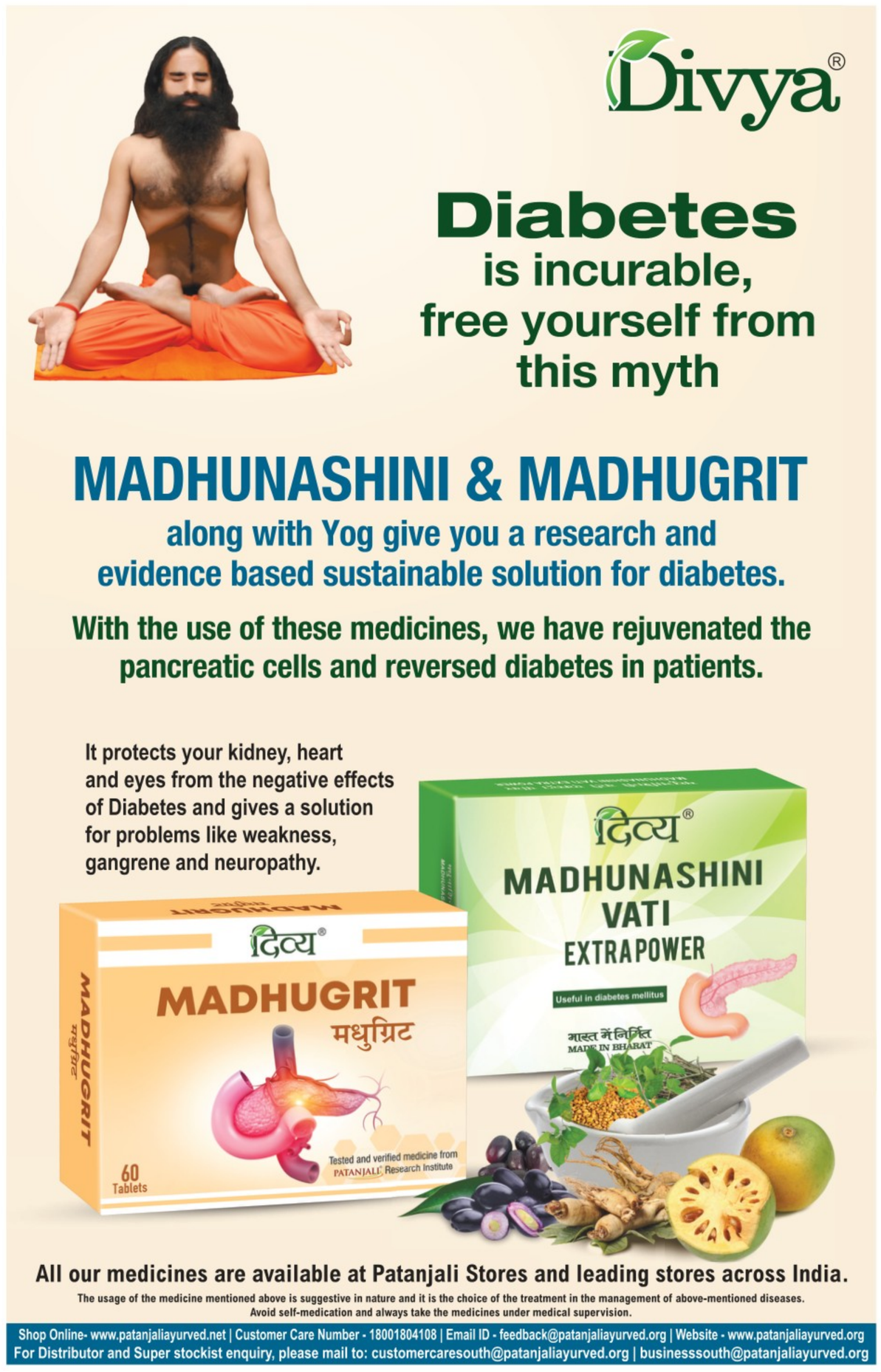
Formula LGB 1300 (Race-1, 8 laps): 1. Diljith Shaji (Thrissur, DTS Racing) (14:59.136); 2. Viswas Vijayaraj (Nellore, DTS Racing) (15:03.587); 3. Arjun S. Nair (Bengaluru, Momentum Motorsports) (15:12.926).

MRF Saloons (Toyota Etios-Race 1, 8 laps): 1. Justin Singh (Gurugram) (16:32.066); 2. Diana Pundole (Pune) (16:34.812); 3. Angad Matharoo (Chandigarh) (16:41.338).

Rajiv, Senthil gain points for Honda Racing India

SEPANG: Honda Racing India teams rider duo of Senthil Kumar and Rajiv Sethu finished 14th and 15th in the first race of the fourth round of the FIM Asia Road Racing Championship (ARRC) here on Saturday.

Rajiv, who finished in a time of 20:32.048, earned two points. He had started 14th on the grid and ended 14th. Senthil, who took the chequered flag in 20:36.296, took one point. PTI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